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General Kuklev Cited on Pact, NATO 'Discrepancies'

LD1002095389 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—"Despite current disbalances, the Warsaw Pact and NATO combat potentials are approximately equal", it is pointed out by Major-General Vladimir Kuklev, assistant chief of a department of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces. He was interviewed in connection with the statement issued by the Warsaw Pact Defence Ministers Committee "on the numerical correlation of armed forces and armaments of the Warsaw Pact Organisation and the North Atlantic alliance in Europe and the adjacent seas". His answers are published in today's TRUD.

"It is absolutely clear today", Vladimir Kuklev said, "that no side can expect victory if it attacks the other. At the same time, and this is stressed in the statement, a radical reduction of the present high concentration of armed forces and armaments in Europe is necessary to ensure stability in keeping with the principle of reasonable sufficiency for defence".

Touching on the military balance between the two alignments, Vladimir Kuklev said:

"Our comparison is based on a complex principle. We take into account all the services of the armed forces—ground, air, naval, anti-aircraft, civil (territorial) defence. The Western side prefers a selective approach, laying over-emphasis on ground forces, tanks and artillery, that is on the sphere where the Warsaw Pact Organisation holds advantage. At the same time it does its best to 'play down' everything that is related to the areas where NATO enjoys numerical superiority—the Navy, attack airforce, etc. Here is, for instance, what they include in the numerical strength of servicemen: 'the ground personnel in active service, including the personnel of airforce ground crews.' That is all. This excludes completely the entire naval and airforce personnel. Herein, in our opinion, lies the main reason for the discrepancies in the evaluation of the numerical strength of the armed forces of the two military-political alliances. There are also differences in the evaluation of the number of military equipment. The NATO report, for instance, contains a chapter entitled rather hazily 'Basic Combat Tanks'. It says that the United States has eighteen hundred machines in West Europe. In our comparison we give all the tanks in service—heavy, medium and light. Hence, according to our figures, the number of American tanks in West Europe is 6,980. Quite a difference, indeed".

"At the initial stage of the forthcoming Vienna negotiations", Vladimir Kuklev continued, "their participants, to my mind, will therefore be confronted with two basic tasks: to reach agreement on the categories of armaments and criteria for counting them, to elaborate methods for effective mutual verification. We do not claim to be one hundred per cent right or infallible. We are prepared to consider all the sincere proposals of our partners at the negotiations".

Noting that naval forces would not be subject to discussion at the Vienna negotiations, Vladimir Kuklev stressed that "they should by no means be deleted from the correlation of forces between the two alliances in Europe. As to the NATO thesis on weapons that are allegedly 'not intended for capturing or holding territories', it is by no means new to us. It has the only purpose of leaving airforces and navies outside the discussion. In the meantime, both ground and carrier aircraft are capable of dealing powerful and lightning blows at targets thousands of kilometres inland."

"If we regard the naval forces from a broader angle, taking the marines as an example, for instance, we shall see that they are capable of both capturing and holding ground. This is why allegations that naval forces 'have nothing to do' with correlation of forces holds no water," Vladimir Kuklev noted.

General Pavlov Cited on 'Reasonable Sufficiency'

AU0902143689 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 8 Feb 89 p 3

[Moscow-datelined article by Lieutenant General Viktor Pavlov, military-political expert, through NOVOSTI "especially for NARODNA MLADEZH": "Warsaw Pact-NATO: Potentials of Reasonable Sufficiency"]

[Text] At the end of last year, NATO Headquarters published figures on conventional forces in Europe. This brochure, entitled "Conventional Armed Forces in Europe: Facts," was packed with tables and diagrams that in different ways informed the reader about the allegedly self-evident superiority of the Warsaw Pact over NATO.

After publication of the Declaration of the Warsaw Pact Defense Ministers Committee, it became clear about a week ago that the figures in the NATO brochure do not correspond to the actual facts. The blocs now face the most important task of starting negotiations on conventional military forces in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. Naturally, if at the start these negotiations were to be based on a distorted correlation of the countries' military forces, as presented in the NATO document, such a dialogue would be unlikely to be productive.

The Declaration of the Warsaw Pact Defense Ministers Committee presents data that is incomparably more complete than the NATO figures. The Warsaw Pact data covers all the armed services, to the extent, of course, that they relate to the balance of military forces Europe.

On the basis of precise data, it can now be established that NATO has a twofold superiority over the Warsaw Pact with regard to naval personnel, and has 7.5 times more aircraft carriers and ships carrying aircraft, 12 times more ships armed with cruise missiles, and 1.5 times more ground- and sea-based tactical strike aircraft. The claims that the Warsaw Pact has a threefold superiority in tanks over NATO were refuted (it is really a twofold superiority), and this superiority will be reduced by 9,000 combat vehicles over 2 years. The Warsaw Pact possesses only 1.5 times more infantry combat vehicles and armored personnel carriers than NATO, but has an almost 12-fold superiority over NATO in tactical missile launchers. For this reason, the Soviet combined units that are being withdrawn from central Europe are taking these missiles with them, including the nuclear ones.

It is a characteristic fact that the declaration is accompanied by tables containing the necessary explanations. The tables show in detail the approach of the Warsaw Pact states to disclosing the correlation of the countries' military forces. This will enable any unprejudiced reader to establish that an approximate parity evidently exists. Neither side can rely on military superiority. In reality, this does not mean a mathematical parity of the countries' fighting capacities, since there are evident variations in different directions within each bloc. However, there is also a more dangerous aspect in this correlation. No rules or agreements whatsoever exist between NATO and the Warsaw Pact that limit in any way the further growth of each side's armaments. In such a situation, in planning their armaments, the two opposing blocs can provide something like a "security reserve," which would justify such an increase.

In order to eliminate attempts to utilize this lack of clarity in the equilibrium to justify the "security reserve," including the update of armed forces and armaments, the USSR made a start on unilaterally reducing its own forces by 12 percent and on eliminating a considerable portion of its heavy weapons and aircraft. The very structure of the troop groupings deployed in central Europe and the European part of the USSR is being changed. It will acquire a unilateral, purely defensive character. The other Warsaw Pact states are also making certain cuts in their own armed forces and armaments.

As a result of these steps, the Warsaw Pact military forces will be placed on a lower footing as regards weaponry [vuoruzhenost], which will make it more complicated for the other side to increase its own military potential. At the same time, the published figures make it substantially easier to find the shortest way to the future negotiations on mutually reducing forces in Europe to the level of reasonable sufficiency, and assist the attainment of nonaggressive defense.

Pact's Contribution to European 'Home' Reviewed

PM0802091589 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 89 First Edition p 3

[Captain Second Rank V. Kocherov article under the "Observer's Comments" rubric: "Home for Europe. Warsaw Pact Countries' New Initiatives To Reduce the Level of Military Confrontation on the Continent"]

[Text] The word "home" sounds different in different languages but everyone, no matter in what country they live, understands it as family, people living together, a dwelling place. Living like one does at home means feeling free, unconstrained, and—especially—secure. It is this kind of home that the world public has determined that Europe must become.

Why Europe? Certainly because a great deal unites us Europeans, not only a common continent. We are firmly bound together by a history which, despite wars, is marked by close cooperation and profound interpenetration of national cultures. We are linked by many problems that we cannot cope with alone today. They must be resolved together, in a neighborly fashion, which alas, is not facilitated by the current accumulation of arms and armies confronting one another.

A home without weapons—that is the ideal all-European home (and also, I believe, the ideal all-American and all-Asian home). As the Soviet Union was the first to proclaim the idea of creating this home, there is nothing surprising in the fact that it is our country that first began to lay the foundations for this home. The Soviet initiatives on substantial reductions in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals laid the foundations for it. The Soviet Union decided to unilaterally cut its own armed forces and conventional arms by 500,000 men and also to withdraw 6 tank divisions from the GDR, Hungary, and the CSSR and disband them.

The "do as I do" principle has always proven more impressive than appeals, no matter what fine-sounding words are used. However, only our Warsaw Pact allies responded to the USSR's initiatives that M.S. Gorbachev proclaimed from the UN rostrum at the beginning of last December, initiatives which have already begun to be implemented.

At the end of 1988 Poland's Defense Committee adopted the decision to reorganize its armed forces and decided on measures aimed at reducing the military budget. As a result two mechanized divisions and several other troop units, including aircraft carrier and artillery units, were disbanded. The numerical strength of the Army fell by almost 15,000 men and a considerable quantity of aircraft, tanks, artillery mounts, and other equipment were decommissioned. The military budget will be cut from 7.7 percent of the state budget to 5.5 percent. This year Z954 billion is planned for the Ministry of National Defense, which is approximately equivalent to the total subsidies that the state channels into milk and dairy product production.

The Hungarian State Assembly also announced its decisions to cut military expenditure by 17 percent. Whereas Hungarian military expenditure totaled 33.2 million forints in 1988, this year it has been decided to cut this figure by almost 5 billion. The Hungarian Defense Ministry announced, literally the other day, that the numerical strength of the Hungarian People's Army will be cut over the next 2 years by 8.8 percent, or 9,800 men. The reduction will affect both the country's ground forces and also its air forces. Some 251 tanks, 30 armored personnel carriers, 430 units of various artillery systems, and other arms and hardware will be decommissioned from the armed forces. A tank brigade and an air squadron will be disbanded.

The GDR National Defense Council recently adopted a decision to cut the National People's Army by 10,000 men. The elimination of 6 tank regiments, the disbanding of 1 air squadron, and the decommissioning of 50 war planes will be linked with this considerable reduction in the numbers of National People's Army personnel. The aforementioned measures are to be implemented by the end of 1990.

Following Poland, Hungary, and the GDR, the CSSR and Bulgaria announced a reduction in their armies, literally one after the other. Czechoslovakia plans to reduce defense expenditure by 15 percent in 1989-1990 and reduce the numerical strength of the Czechoslovak People's Army by 12,000 men. Some 850 tanks, 165 armored personnel carriers, and 51 war planes are being decommissioned and gradually eliminated. Arms and equipment from three combined arms divisions will be mothballed. These divisions will only retain the personnel needed to safeguard equipment and maintain order. A decision has also been adopted to reduce the amount of live fire by 25-30 percent and the numerical strength of the reservists inducted for exercises by 15,000 men.

As for Bulgaria, the Bulgarian People's Defense Ministry budget is being cut by 12 percent this year and the numerical strength of the Bulgarian People's Army is being cut by 10,000 men by the end of 1990. Some 200 tanks, 200 artillery systems, 20 aircraft, and 5 navy units will also be cut.

Romania carried out a unilateral 5-percent reduction in its armed forces, arms, and military expenditure previously, more than 2 years ago.

A statement made by the Warsaw Pact Defense Ministers Committee "On Correlating the Numerical Strength of Warsaw Pact and NATO Armed Forces in Europe and the Waters Around It" that was published recently made a fresh contribution to the cause of boosting trust in Europe. This statement constitutes an appeal to the NATO countries and the hope that they will show comparable readiness to advance very speedily toward strengthening stability and security in Europe.

It is both easier and quicker to build an all-European home together. The Warsaw Pact countries have already embarked on this process. The peoples expect the same from the North Atlantic bloc countries.

Rogachev Briefs Envoys on Shevardnadze Trip

LD0702182389 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1719 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (TASS)—Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, received the heads of diplomatic missions of the socialist countries in Moscow today and briefed them on the results of the negotiations in Pakistan by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, on the situation taking shape in Afghanistan in connection with the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country, as well as the steps being taken by the Soviet Union to attain a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

Those taking part in the meeting greeted with approval the results of Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the PRC and expressed support for the USSR's course toward full normalization of relations with China.

Warsaw Pact Joint Exercise Begins in CSSR

LD0902163889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1320 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Prague, 9 Feb (TASS)—The CTK press agency has reported that in accordance with the plan of the command of the Joint Armed Forces of Warsaw Treaty member states, a joint exercise has begun on the territory of the CSSR with the participation of the Hungarian People's Army, the [Soviet] Central Group of Troops and the Czechoslovak People's Army.

A friendship meeting took place at which the conviction was expressed that the exercise would be a school for further enhancing military prowess and verifying the combat readiness of each soldier and officer, and would serve the cause of strengthening the military comradeship among troops of the allied armies.

Social Sciences Conference in Warsaw Ends Work

PM0702121789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 89 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "The Party and the Reforms"]

[Text] Warsaw, 5 Feb—The third PZPR national theoretical and ideological conference, which has ended its work here, was dedicated to an in-depth analysis of the transformations taking place in Poland in the political, social, and economic spheres and the role and tasks of the Marxist-Leninist party at the present stage of socialist building. W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, took part in it.

Summing up the results of the party forum, M. Orzechowski, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, noted that the conference had demonstrated the full complexity of the problems facing the PZPR and the working class.

Only socialism offers Poland broad prospects, the speaker pointed out. Today there must be a switch to a qualitatively new level in the development of the theory and practice of socialist building so as to ensure a high standard of economic efficiency.

Poland is not alone in the matter of implementing socioeconomic and sociopolitical reforms. Radical transformations of all aspects of life are being carried out by the Soviet Union and other socialist community countries, M. Orzechowski stressed.

Taking part in the conference were representatives of the academies of social sciences and other party academic institutions from six European socialist countries including the Soviet Union.

Television Cooperation Conference Begins 7 Feb

LD0702200789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1123 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (TASS)—"Television at the Turn of the Century"—this is the name given to the international conference that started in Moscow today. Representatives of the national television organizations of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, together with their Soviet colleagues, are to spend 2 days examining the problems of involving one of the most effective mass media networks in the process of democratizing society. The conference is being held jointly by the Academy of Social Sciences attached to the CPSU Central Committee and Gostelradio [USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting].

Speaking at the opening of the conference, the well-known Soviet historian Prof Vilen Yegorov noted that restructuring the work of television under the new conditions envisions first and foremost greater openness and glasnost in television broadcasting and a transition to live broadcasting in new programs. Lately, the scholar stressed, Soviet television journalists facilitated the elimination of many "blank spots" in the country's history regarding the times of the personality cult and the subsequent era of stagnation.

At the conference cooperation between the television organizations of the fraternal countries, which is expanding with every passing year and acquiring new forms, was discussed. The television program "In the Socialist Countries" is invariably popular with Soviet viewers; the program is made by Gostelradio foreign correspondents. Recently, "complimentary" materials in this program have given way to features and reports where the facts and phenomena of life today are objectively analyzed. The number of people receiving the new news and current affairs program "Intersignal"—which is made jointly in the spirit of the new political thinking by the television organizations in the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Poland—is growing.

Henrikas Yushkyavichyus, deputy chairman of Gostelradio, devoted his speech to the technical problems of the development of television at the turn of the century. He reported that at the beginning of March tests on a new generation of television technology are to start in Moscow—on a highly precise apparatus simultaneously developed in several countries of the East and West. A single world standard has to be worked out for this new television network.

The conference is continuing its work.

Communist Parties Representatives Meet in Sofia

LD0802220989 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Sofia February 9 TASS—A meeting of deputy heads of the International Departments of the Central Committees of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Vietnamese Communist Party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Korean Workers' Party, the Cuban Communist Party, the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Romanian Communist Party, the Soviet Communist Party and Czechoslovak Communist Party took place in Sofia on February 7-8.

The discussion of the meeting centred on questions of present-day international situation and realities which appeared as a result of new political thinking as well as approaches to solution of some regional conflicts.

Meeting participants were received by Milko Balev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee. He familiarised the participants with urgent tasks of restructuring in all spheres of life in Bulgaria, giving special attention to Bulgaria's constructive and peaceful foreign policy on the Balkans, in Europe and the world, reports the BTA news agency on February 8.

CEMA's Sychev Cited on 'Economic Levers'

AU0702185989 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 6 Feb 89 p 5

[Interview with Vyacheslav Sychev, CEMA secretary, by NOVOSTI correspondent Aleksandr Linik: "Economic Levers for Implementing the CEMA Comprehensive Program"—date, place not given]

[Text] The implementation of the Comprehensive Program for the Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Member States Through the Year 2000 that was adopted 3 years ago is encountering a number of difficulties of an economic and organizational nature. Will an effective way out of the situation that has been created be found? NOVOSTI correspondent Aleksandr Linik discussed this question with CEMA Secretary Vyacheslav Sychev.

[Sychev] Many of our present difficulties in carrying out the Comprehensive Program were, so to speak, built into the program even before it was adopted in December 1985. The majority of the countries participating in this project did not yet possess a sufficiently well-prepared mechanism for developing such cooperation. However, it was decided that "the Army cannot wait to start its campaign until the last button is sewn on the last soldier's uniform." Was such haste really justified?

I am not inclined to talk about "failure" in this program, even though such opinions can be heard at the present time. In making our assessment of the first 3 years, one must certainly point out the program's positive role in deepening and stimulating multilateral cooperation between the countries of the socialist community.

An unprecedented range of joint projects has been achieved. Over 1,500 organizations from the CEMA member countries, including about 500 Soviet ones, are taking part in the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress. They are working on fulfilling almost 3,000 assignments, which are designed to create over 2,500 new types of equipment, technologies, and materials. As a result, finished products are planned over the widest possible range—from laboratory installations to supercomputers capable of performing billions of operations per second.

I would like to draw attention to an extremely important factor. The tight deadlines for fulfilling the majority of the assignments in the Comprehensive Program have made it necessary to substantially increase efficiency in solving various issues of cooperation, to reduce bureaucratic delays and correspondence to the minimum, and to surmount departmental barriers. It is precisely in this area that we are not succeeding at the moment, but the collectives of scientists and specialists taking part in the projects under the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress now clearly see what is hindering them from working in a new way, what is delaying the creation of a modern economic mechanism in scientific and technical cooperation.

Thus, the "army" of scientific workers from the countries of the socialist community is undoubtedly marching forward and is able to see its most important goals.

[Linik] You pointed out that most of the problems of cooperation are a direct consequence of the as yet imperfect economic mechanism of cooperation. What problems do you have in mind?

[Sychev] First and foremost, I am referring to the great number of incomplete development projects that are not relevant to the goals of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress, as well as the considerable volume of projects that are at the industrial branch level. Only 47 percent of the assignments of the Comprehensive Program are at the state level. This is why last year it was impossible to feel that the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress made any substantial contribution to the national economies of the CEMA member countries.

We had no sense of the expected contribution from the organizations that joined in the international processes, but had no leading experience in cooperation, nor any precise idea of the capacities of their new partners. Many organizations that are joint contractors (and this is one of the chronic diseases of scientific and technical cooperation) are not in a position to guarantee the performance of the development projects to a high standard and within tight deadlines, because they lack the necessary experimental production base.

I would also like to mention a bottleneck in implementing the Comprehensive Program Through the Year 2000. I refer to the broad-scale assimilation of the results of development projects of the enterprises and organizations of the CEMA member countries. The detailed programs for cooperating on the problems included in the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress should contain proposals on specialization and production sharing even at the drafting stage. However, in practice the majority of such cooperation programs were agreed by the parties only with regard to the scientific-research and experimental-design work. So far, uncertainty remains regarding the questions of cooperation at the stage of mastering production and marketing the new equipment. As a rule, the leading coordinator organizations within the framework of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress are the scientific-research or project design centers, which unfortunately neither possess their own production base, nor have any serious influence on the industrial enterprises.

Here one may mention a further problem that is "on everyone's lips" in our countries. The industrial assimilation of the development projects of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress is coming up against major difficulties in agreeing on the prices for mutually delivered products.

In my view, all these problems, as well as a number of others, are not purely "a phenomenon of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress," but rather a consequence of the imperfections of the mechanism of multilateral cooperation and its lack of correspondence with the contemporary tasks of the Comprehensive Program.

[Linik] There is much talk now of the need to consistently utilize the economic levers to ensure the self-financing interests of the enterprises of the socialist countries and to promote a policy of making economies and producing competitive goods. This is the purpose of redirecting the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress toward identifying and implementing consolidated special-purpose scientific, technical, and technological projects. Will this be a starting point for taking off in the new direction?

[Sychev] I would like to believe that this will indeed be so. However, it is appropriate to point out that the special-purpose projects will not produce the required effect if we approach them by means of our previous measures. A fundamentally new approach is required. At the state level, the clients for the newly developed products must be determined. The current and prospective product requirements of countries must be determined in relation to every project, and scientifically based calculations must be made of the volume and types of resources (financial, material, labor, and so on) needed to carry out these projects.

We also hope the sociologists and economists of CEMA countries will assist in creating the necessary theoretical base for the fastest possible restructuring of the mechanism of multilateral scientific, technical, and economic cooperation, because this is the only realistic way to accelerate scientific and technical progress in the countries of the socialist community.

Gerasimov Gives News Conference 9 February

Relations With U.S.

LD0902151189 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Any statement by the U.S. President or secretary of state, related to this or that aspect of international relations, is received in Moscow with perfectly natural interest and attention, inasmuch as the new administration's foreign policy line is yet in the making", [no opening quotes as received] it was stated at a briefing here today by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

This pertains to the situation in Central America, too. In this connection, he continued, it only remains for us to welcome the statement made by President George Bush that cooperation was possible between our two countries in this question. Furthermore, we fully subscribe to the clarification, which the U.S. President deemed necessary to make in reply to a question put to him, that he meant only cooperation, not a deal. "We are prepared for such cooperation", the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

He commented further on the U.S. Administration's started reconsideration of the ban on modern technology exports to the USSR. Many American political leaders and influential organisations have lately raised the question of diverging in this or that way from clauses of the American trade legislation (Jackson-Vanik Amendment) which discriminate the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet Union comes out for the removal of artificial roadblocks to the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation, based on sober commercial interest", the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman noted. "Export control depending on momentary political considerations and customs discrimination are obstacles threatening the normal development of commercial and economic relations between Soviet and American partners. We believe such restrictions to be shortsighted and harmful from the point of view of the entire complex of Soviet-American relations."

West's 'Attitude' on Afghanistan

LD0902165189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1527 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (TASS)—It is hardly appropriate for countries which are members of the United Nations, which gives humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, to follow the same path as the irreconcilable opposition, which, proceeding from its openly hostile attitude toward the regime and without thinking of the fate of peaceful civilians, is trying to subject Kabul and other major towns to a hunger blockade. This was stated by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, at a briefing today, in response to statements voiced in a number of Western countries urging the weakening of Afghan Government positions. Such an attitude, in the words of the USSR Foreign Ministry's spokesman, causes perplexity in the Soviet Union.

The British media, he went on, note that recently the flow of British arms to the mujahidin has increased. Official representatives forecast that the "days of the Kabul regime are numbered." Even a call for using the food aid sent along UN lines, and expected to arrive in the next few days, as a means for undermining the Afghan Government's position can be heard in their official statements, Gennadiy Gerasimov said.

The British Foreign Ministry, in its clarification of the issue, indicated that London is against giving "indiscriminate" aid to the Afghan population because such aid, allegedly, will promote the prolongation of the regimes. A statement by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is in tune with the British pronouncements. He expressed his negative attitude toward organizing an air bridge for bringing in UN aid because this would promote the preservation of "a government which has lost its importance." The West's stand regarding the Afghan Government, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed, is not new to us. But what about the moral side of the issue?

Pakistan Federation Proposal

LD0902155889 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 9 Feb 89

["Soviet Spokesman Perplexed at Ghulam Ishaq Khan's Remarks"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A senior Soviet spokesman today expressed bewilderment at Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's remarks about the possibility of an Islamic confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan after "Afghanistan again becomes an independent non-aligned nation".

Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, was speaking at a briefing here.

"This kind of intention can only be seen as directed at hamstringing Afghanistan's independence and infringing upon its sovereignty," he said.

Considering close ties between Pakistan and the Afghan opposition, it is likely that the statement has been agreed with the leaders of the Peshawar-based "Alliance of the Seven" in advance, he said.

"One is apt to ask how sincere the leaders of the die-hard opposition are in their claims of fighting for Afghanistan's independence.

"Aren't they already preparing to sacrifice the sovereignty of their country in return for outside aid and support they receive in their struggle for power in Afghanistan?" Gerasimov asked rhetorically.

"We believe that only the Afghan people—and no-one else—are entitled to decide their destiny, including relations with other countries," he said.

Afghan Envoy Comment

LD0902172189 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Moscow February 9 TASS—"The Soviet Union is for the removal of artificial barriers in the way of developing mutually advantageous economic cooperation with the USA, based on healthy commercial interest." This is how Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, commented on reports that the U.S. Administration starts revision of its stand on the ban of export of sophisticated technology to the USSR. [passage omitted]

The Soviet people, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out, met with bewilderment a statement by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan concerning a possibility of establishing a confederation of Islamic Pakistan and Afghanistan. Such an intention, he said, cannot be regarded otherwise but as an action aimed at undermining Afghanistan's independence and looks as an attempt to infringe on its sovereignty.

Speaking at the briefing, Sayyed Gulabzoy, Afghan ambassador to the USSR, expressed a protest against the statement by the Pakistani president. He also noted that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union were fulfilling with honour their obligations under the Geneva accords. The withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is drawing to an end, and the Afghan Government is persistently translating into life the national reconciliation policy.

However, the ambassador went on to say, other participants in the Geneva agreements, far from meeting their obligations, are stepping up arms supplies to the armed opposition and are expanding aid to it. "Despite the continued outside interference in Afghan domestic affairs and the attempts to continue the war and bloodshed, the Afghan leadership believes that there is no alternative to the national reconciliation policy. The Afghan people will give a deserved rebuff to those who intend to wage the war to a 'victorious end'. The Afghan Armed Forces have accumulated rich combat experience and have every opportunity for effective protection of the gains of the April Revolution," noted Sayyed Gulabzoy.

Reprisals Against Palestinians

LD0902170589 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing that the Dutch ambassador, (?who represents Israeli) interests in the USSR was invited to the USSR Foreign Ministry on February 9 where he was told the following:

"Increasingly disquieting reports are coming in from the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories in the past few days. The Israeli authorities are stiffening reprisals against the innocent Palestinian population and extensively use firearms and ammunition, which leads to suffering, injuries and death of many people. Israel crudely violates basic human rights and tramples underfoot generally recognized international legal norms and numerous UN decisions, including Security Council Resolutions 605, 607 and 608.

"Israeli actions provoke indignation all over the world, including the Soviet Union. Moscow believes that reprisals and violence used by Israeli troops against Palestinians cannot be justified by any considerations. The Soviet Union calls on Israel to stop immediately its illegal actions against Palestinians and to observe strictly international rules and agreements, above all the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civil population during war.

"It is also impossible to bypass the fact that Israel stakes on power methods at the time when favourable conditions are emerging for a political settlement in the Middle East on the basis of a balance of interests of all interested (?parties), legitimate rights and reliable security for all peoples in the region, including Israel. We express the hope that the Israeli Government will heed the voice of wisdom and will take steps contributing to the start of defusing the Arab-Israeli conflict and the start of a real process of an all-embracing and just Middle East settlement."

Cyprus Settlement Talks

LD0902160689 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A senior Soviet spokesman stressed the continuing importance of a favorable atmosphere at the current—especially delicate—phase of talks on Cyprus to enable the intercommunal dialogue to develop positively in the interests of that country's future and for securing peace in the eastern Mediterranean.

Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, was commenting at a briefing on Thursday on a recent exchange of written proposals for a Cyprus settlement between President Yeoryios Vasiliou of Cyprus and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas.

Gerasimov said that the exchange marks a new and crucial stage in the intercommunal dialogue on Cyprus as it gears the negotiators to holding a specific discussion of the substance of the Cyprus issue.

"We know from our own experience," he added, "that dialogue requires its participants to show a constructive approach and flexibility in order to see the prospects and not damage them by any declarations or actions."

"It appears that what is especially needed on Cyprus now is a mutual desire to look for compromise solutions and to preserve and develop positive points achieved in the course of the dialogue," Gerasimov said.

Inter-Korean Contacts

LD0902150589 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A senior Soviet spokesman said on Thursday [9 February] that his country firmly supports inter-Korean contacts to set the stage for constructive peaceful dialogue between North and South Koreas.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, said the news that representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korea started discussions Wednesday on the preparation of military-political talks at prime ministerial level generated interest in the Soviet Union.

"One has to regret that the U.S.-South Korean military exercise codenamed 'Team Spirit'89' has complicated the situation in the Korean peninsula and introduced another element of mistrust between the Korean sides," he added.

"It is important now not to erect any further barriers in the way of inter-Korean dialogue, but to preserve the right atmosphere for continuing contacts," Gerasimov said

Roundtable Dialogue With Poland

LD0902234289 Warsaw PAP in English 2037 GMT 9 Feb 89

[By PAP correspondent Jerzy Malczyk]

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 9—Spokesman of the USSR Foreign Minstry Gennadiy Gerasimov said at today's press conference here that the USSR, as a neighbour of Poland and Polish nation, as a country attending to similar tasks connected with renewal of socialism, is interested in a constructive dialogue of forces represented at the round table and in substantial results achieved during the talks, which is possible. Gerasimov expressed also a conviction that the development of the policy of national agreement in Poland, involving broad range of political forces, corresponds with the interests of Polish society and will contribute to its progress. Asked to confirm the news supposedly broadcast by Moscow Radio, saying that Lech Walesa expressed willingness to visit the USSR, Gerasimov answered that he did not hear this news. However—added he—Lech Walesa may come to the USSR if he obtains an invitation. If he fails to get it, he may use other procedures to come here, said he.

Panyukov Briefs Media on Aeroflot Development Plans

International Links Increased

LD0802155289 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—The drive to reshape foreign economic activity in the USSR and new political thinking encourage the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, to boost its international service. This was reflected in Aeroflot's plans for 1989, Boris Panyukov, first deputy minister of civil aviation of the USSR, told this at a meeting with journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Centre today.

This year Aeroflot plans to make regular flights to 126 points in 98 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Americas. The overall number of states with which Aeroflot signed intergovernmental air traffic agreements has reached 102. The Soviet air company signed an intergovernmental agreement with Argentina and has an administrative permission for flights to Peru.

Work to prepare new aviation agreements is continued, speakers at the news conference said. Good business ties that have formed with the Australian authorities allowed the sides to finalise within a short time space preparations of documents envisaging, in part, extension to Aeroflot and the company Qantas the right to transit and charter flights. They are supposed to begin as early as next summer. The text of an agreement with the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire was initialed. Negotiations on cooperation with the South Korean airline, Korean Airways, will be continued.

Last year negotiations were held with representatives of aviation authorities and air companies of Britain, West Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries, which laid down a contractual and legal foundation for increasing bilateral cooperation and also for developing the trans-Siberian route.

For instance, Aeroflot has reached an agreement with the British airlines Virgin Atlantic which will replace British Caledonian on this route. Starting April 1 Virgin Atlantic and British Airways will receive the right to fly 14 weekly flights from London to Tokyo—of which eleven without a stopover in Moscow—on wide-bodied Boeing 747. Aeroflot will be able to make ten weekly flights between London and Tokyo.

An accord was legally formulated on increasing flights along the trans-Siberian route by airliners of Aeroflot and the Japanese companies JAL and ANA in the next two years. Starting summer 1990 Soviet pilots will fly up to 20 flights a week there, and Japanese—30 flights between Tokyo and points in Europe. In addition to this, Aeroflot received the right to make cargo flights on Il-76 plane, the first on the trans-Siberian route, beginning from July 1, 1989.

According to Panyukov, the talks held with the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism have resulted in the decision to open direct air service between New Delhi and Tashkent. Opportunities are explored to open a Soviet-Indian joint air service.

Financial Situation Discussed

LD0802173789 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—The revenue of the Soviet air company, Aeroflot, in 1988 when it had to pay its own way amounted 4,715,000,000 roubles. For the first time it carried on its air routes almost 125 million passengers and over 3.3 million tonnes of emergency cargo and mail. Boris Panyukov, first deputy civil aviation minister of the USSR, who named these figures, described the results of the airline's work as very positive.

Speaking to Soviet and foreign journalists at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre today, he stressed that relations of cost-accounting in the industry would be further developed in the new year. Several air businesses, above all those which are unprofitable, will switch to a lease contract if work collectives are willing it. A commercial joint-stock bank, Aeroflot, was set up to improve the settlement system. It is an equitable partner of civil aviation enterprises.

Air service to areas of the Far East, Siberia, the Far North, and the resort zone on the Black Sea coast will be developing at a priority rate in 1989, Panyukov said. Thirty-three new routes will be added to Aeroflot's domestic air lines. New aircraft technology and planes with greater capacity such as Il-86, Tu-154, and Yak-42 are planned to be put into service on 46 air routes during the year.

In future air traffic should become dominating in passenger carriage, speakers at the news conference noted. Its ratio in the overall volume will go up from 33 to 42 per cent by the year 2000 and will outpace the railway transport by this indicator. Work is in progress under the adopted programme to build new aircraft and helicopters of various purpose and fit out Aeroflot with them. Apart from excellent flight and technical characteristics, they use fuel sparingly. The 300-seat Aerobus Il-86, the 214-seat medium-haul Tu-204 plane, and the light multipurpose helicopter Ka-126 continue to undergo tests.

The comprehensive programme for scientific and technical progress of CMEA countries' civil aviation for the period ending in 2000 is being successfully implemented. Partners joint efforts in developing and putting into service new technology, for instance, the planes L-410-UPE-E and An-28, the helicopters V-3 and Ka-126, a series of engines and other types of technology.

Cooperation with capitalist countries is likewise growing. Proposals for developing direct links, including launching joint ventures are currently examined, Panyukov noted.

McNamara Discusses Lessons of 1962 Cuba Crisis

PM0902122989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 89 First Edition p 4

[Interview with former U.S. Secretary of Defense R. McNamara by G. Vasilyev: "The Crisis and Its Lessons"]

[Text] This man's name is well-known, not just in his own country. A former U.S. secretary of defense (under J. Kennedy and L. Johnson) and then president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, he is now engaged in vigorous public activity connected with the acute global questions of our time, above all with arms control problems. Since January 1988 Robert McNamara has been a director of the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Mankind, set up by well-known public figures, scientists, cultural figures, and representatives of the clergy in the USSR, the United States, Sweden, the FRG, India, and many other countries.

I had the chance to talk with R. McNamara during a break between sessions at the recent tripartite symposium in Moscow on the 1962 Caribbean crisis. It was a very interesting and extremely useful exchange of opinions during which Soviet, U.S., and Cuban politicians and scientists sought not only to analyze the intricacies of the tense events of that time, when the world was on the brink of nuclear war, but also to draw conclusions for the future.

[Vasilyev] Mr McNamara, in Manchester's book "The Glory and the Dream" I read that at the height of the Caribbean crisis, on the evening of 27 October 1962, you looked at the setting sun and wondered: "Will I see another sunset?"

[McNamara] That is so. On the evening of 27 October I was leaving the White House after being with the President. It was a clear, fall evening. And I thought: "Maybe I will never again see such a splendid Saturday evening." I must tell you that this feeling reflected the level of the crisis, the level of tension at the time. And the discussion we have had here, in Moscow, over the past 2 days, involving Soviet, U.S., and Cuban representatives, shows why it was so.

This morning we learned from the Cuban representatives that on Saturday 27 October they were convinced that in 2 or 3 days time, either on Monday the 29th, or Tuesday 30 October, there would be a U.S. air attack on Cuba and a ground invasion of their country's territory would begin. They also said that they were fully resolved to fight to the last man or to the last bullet and that the Soviet servicemen there—40,000 of them—were also prepared to fight to the end. According to their estimates, Cuba's manpower losses would have been 100,000 men.

But just think for a moment, even if they are correct in their estimate of possible losses, which would have been horrific in itself, just think: Would that have been the end of it? Of course not! Of course, the Soviet Union would have replied with military steps somewhere in the world and, of course, the United States would have replied with military measures to the Soviet military response. And who knows how far things would have escalated.

I believe that therein lies the danger of such situations. This is one of the lessons of the Caribbean crisis. In the nuclear era crisis settlement has become dangerous, difficult, and unpredictable.

[Vasilyev] What can and must be done to avert a threat?

[McNamara] Every effort must be made to avoid crises. And this means reducing political tension by reducing mutual misunderstanding and distrust. In the 26 years since the missile crisis we have not achieved significant progress in that area. Obviously, Mikhail Gorbachev is seeking to do that now, believing that it is in the interests of both sides to achieve a dramatic reduction in the threat of conflict between East and West. His proposals are so dramatic and revolutionary that this simply gives rise to a desire to put an end to the cold war. Unfortunately, the reaction in the West, particularly in the United States, was cautious. We will need a qualitative leap forward in our thinking to be able to recognize our own national goals, our own role in a world where the East-West struggle is not the dominant factor.

[Vasilyev] What is your assessment of M.S. Gorbachev's UN General Assembly session address?

[McNamara] I have no doubt that your president and general secretary is looking ahead to the 21st century. And what he sees is not a world politically divided into East and West and economically into North and South, but a world community, in which each country's strength and its future depend on mutual relations with other countries—economic, political, and ecological. As president of the World Bank I was much involved with these issues, I know how acute they are, and I believe that approaches to solving them can only be found via joint global actions. I read Gorbachev's 7 December address at the UN General Assembly session and I believe it is one of the great state documents of recent years.

[Vasilyev] What do you consider the most important aspect of the address?

[McNamara] First, Gorbachev expounded his philosophical vision of a united and interdependent world, with which I entirely agree. But he did not stop at that. In order to demonstrate that he really does intend to act in that direction, he announced that the Soviet Union would reduce its armed forces by 500,000 men and by 10,000 tanks. This I found very heartening, particularly the fact that these actions are being taken unilaterally. Arms control negotiations are extremely complex. However much we want to succeed, progress at them will be slow. So it is very important to take mutual unilateral action, parallel with the talks, to reduce armaments. That is exactly what your leader has done. I applaud him.

[Vasilyev] What is you view of the current state of affairs in the arms limitation and disarmament sphere?

[McNamara] The treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles has been signed and is being implemented. That is fine, of course. But the agreement covers only approximately four percent of the total arsenal of nuclear warheads, of which each side has approximately 25,000. So the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is a step in the right direction, but a very small step. The next big step should be an agreement on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive armaments. But it involves a very complex range of issues. And it seems to me that the talks will be rather protracted. The next step we must take, partially parallel with the previous one, is the achievement of accords on the reduction of conventional armaments to levels sufficient for defense. These are also difficult questions. It will be years before accords are reached. Therefore, I believe we must accompany bilateral and multilateral talks with mutual unilateral actions, as exemplified by the initiatives announced by Gorbachev on 7 December 1988.

[Vasilyev] I have heard that you are critical of the SDI program....

[McNamara] Yes, I am very critical of SDI. For the same reasons that at President Johnson's meeting with your prime minister, Kosygin, in Glassboro in June 1967 I criticized the Soviet Union's deployment of an ABM system. I told Kosygin at the time: "If you build an ABM system, which would have an adverse effect on our means of deterrence, we will have to build up our offensive forces." This fundamental correlation between defense and attack still persists. And today you are telling us, and you are quite right, that if the United States starts deploying the SDI system, you will have to take countermeasures. One of the avenues of these countermeasures would be a major buildup of offensive armaments. This would be bad for both sides. I am against the deployment of an ABM system in space. It would hinder the achievement of accords on the limitation of offensive nuclear armaments, which is what we must be seeking.

[Vasilyev] You once said that both the United States and the Soviet Union have the kind of nuclear arsenals that enable them to destroy one another more than 10 times over.

[McNamara] Indeed, it is perfectly obvious. And that is the monstrous absurdity of it. As I have already said, both the U.S. and Soviet sides have approximately 25,000 nuclear warheads each. Each warhead possesses on average a destructive force approximately 30 times greater than that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. So, in toto, each side possesses the destructive force of 700,000 Hiroshima bombs. Is there any sense in this? None at all! Not only does it increase instability and the risk of a catastrophe, but it is very expensive for each country. You are seeking to switch as many resources as possible from military to civilian sectors of the economy. But we are interested in doing this too. It is madness to continue along the path of the arms race.

[Vasilyev] What is your assessment of the fact that the top leaders of the USSR and the United States sent greetings to the participants of the symposium on the Caribbean crisis?

[McNamara] It is very heartening. It is further evidence of the fact that the atmosphere of Soviet-American relations and the atmosphere in the world as a whole are changing for the better. I hope that in the next few years we will witness further progress in easing international tension, in eradicating false ideas about one another and deeply ingrained distrust.

Mankind cannot allow a repetition of the situation like the one that occurred in October 1962. To avoid it it is necessary to develop dialogue between countries and advance along the path of reducing armaments.

U.S. Economic Sanctions Condemned at GATT Meeting

LD0902200589 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—By TASS political analyst Albert Balebanov:

Something absolutely unprecedented has happened at GATT meetings, started in Geneva to prepare the organisation's next "Uruguayan round" of negotiations: More than fifty countries have condemned there the U.S. economic sanctions against Brazil. The countries that backed Brazil's just stand in the conflict with the United States include twelve EEC countries, Japan and India. They urged Washington to show restraint and stressed the need of renouncing the vicious practice of trade discriminations.

This is, indeed, the first time in GATT's 41-year long history that such a powerful anti-American front had appeared [word indistinct] the organisation. It proves patently that the world community has grown tired of the endless "trade wars" the United States wages either against separate states or against whole regional economic organisations, such [words indistinct] the world community suffers also from their negative moral and political consequences—from the erosion of international trade principles and standards forged with such great difficulty.

The unbecoming American sanctions against Brazil have disturbed the "Third World" nations very much. The United States has inflicted this developing country a loss of 39 thousand million dollars by imposing 100 per cent customs duties on her goods as of November 1st, 1988. Considering that Brazil has a record-high external debt, amounting to 121 thousand million dollars, Washington's blow proves to be very painful. The "Third World" interpreted this U.S. arbitrariness as a threat to itself. Who can now be guaranteed against similar American steps, taken under this or that pretext, as in the case with Brazil?

The sanctions against Brazil are, in the final analysis, only one particular case. But they bear out clearly the change that has occurred in the moods of the developing nations. One more thing is quite indicative: The United States was guaranteed against the emergence of an anti-American front in GATT as long as it waged "trade wars" against equal economic rivals, such as Japan or the EEC. But no sooner had the American sanctions gone beyond these limits, starting to affect the developing GATT nations, the situation changed immediately. Resentment at U.S. actions began mount rapidly.

Losing its positions in the world market, Washington is striving to foist its point of view on the numerous parties to different commercial negotiations, refuses to reckon with the interests of others, which causes a serious disbalance in present-day international commercial relations. The U.S. Administration's steps reflect also the serious difficulties plaguing the national economy of the United States.

Noticeable in the current GATT situation is the desire of the majority of nations to seek compromises aimed at liberalizing world trade, ridding it of sanctions and other reprisals. The prospects for internationalising world economy, increasing its interdependence, will depend, it appears, on whether the United States realizes these factors and takes them into account or not.

PRC Ties, Role of Journalists in Politics Discussed

LD0602133389 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0330 GMT 6 Feb 89

[From the "120 Minutes" program presented by Dobrodeyev]

[Excerpts] [Dobrodeyev] Our studio guest today is Vsevolod Vladimirovich Ovchinnikov, PRAVDA political observer. [passage omitted] Has there been an important change in Soviet-Chinese relations today?

[Ovchinnikov] There has indeed, without a doubt, although the meeting itself will mark the full normalization of bilateral relations. We can say that the necessary prerequisites have now been created for this. The communique published today states that the basis of a new type of Soviet-Chinese relations will be formulated at the meeting of the top leaders of the two countries. I would like to add that the full normalization of our relations is primarily dictated by the requirements of internal development of our countries. Despite all the differences in specific conditions, the goals of the renewal of socialism coincide to a great extent with making the working man the master of production, creating an effective economic mechanism, and overcoming social apathy, that is, democratizing society. Thus, though our restructuring is much younger than the Chinese reforms—in April restructuring will be 4 years old, while the Chinese reform is already in its 11th year—it is, in my view, interesting that we arrived at the same thing virtually simultaneously. The 13th Chinese CP congress and our 19th party conference discussed the question of reform of the political system. Fashionable issues for us, like a choice of candidates at elections, are now the burning issues of the day both in our country and in China.

[Dobrodeyev] You have yourself moved us on to the next question. You are a candidate for people's deputy of the USSR. The election campaign is continuing, and we would like to hear in brief, if we may, the basic principles of your election program.

[Ovchinnikov] Journalism stands somewhere at the point where politics meets sociology; so, it seems to me that the people's deputies who are elected from the Union of Journalists should first and foremost strive to enhance the role of public opinion in the formulation of state policy, both domestic and foreign. Whereas in domestic and defense, for instance, we are only taking the first steps. And so there will also be the task of how to make Soviet people better informed on these issues. For without this, unless public opinion is formed and takes an active part, we cannot establish any sort of constructive mechanism of democratic discussion and democratic solution of the major problems of foreign policy and defense, especially those relating to use of the armed forces abroad. Today, when the last forces are leaving Afghanistan, we should probably give particular thought to this. [passage omitted]

UN Security Council To Convene 10 March

LD0902225789 Moscow TASS in English 2242 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] New York February 10 TASS—On February 10 a meeting of the Security Council will be called at a request of the group of Arab countries at the U.N. It will examine the situation on the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory.

The situation evokes a growing concern among the international community. The list of Palestinians, including children, killed by the Israeli invaders is increasing virtually every day. According to the data of the mission of the Palestinian permanent observer to the U.N., 55 Palestinians were killed and at least 500 wounded since last December.

WFTU on Benefits in Converting Defense Output

WA1801018289 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Feb 89 p 3

[Interview with V.Ye. Mozhayev, WFTU secretary]

[Text] As the first practical steps are taken in the area of disarmament, there is an increasingly crucial need to concretely study questions of conversion—that is, the changeover of the military industry to the production of civilian products. This would undoubtedly include trade union circles since the conversion touches upon the interests of the most diverse segments of workers. In this connection a TRUD correspondent met in Prague with the secretary of the WFTU, V.Ye. Mozhayev, and asked him to answer a couple of questions.

[TRUD] When did the trade unions begin to delve fairly deeply into the problem of conversion?

[Mozhayev] The trade unions began their first investigations of the question of conversion of the military industry in the second half of the 1970's. Why then precisely? Because during that period several important Soviet-American agreements were concluded concerning arms limitation (on SALT-2, on PRO [anti-missile defense]) and others, and a conference was held on security and cooperation in Europe. Against this background it was a fairly urgent need to consider the potential possibility of practical disarmament. And this means that the working class and its trade unions had to prepare for what would happen in the event that one or another part of the military industry were changed over to a peaceful basis.

As early as 1977-1978, on an order from several American branch trade unions, including the International Association of Workers of the Machine Building and Aerospace Industry, a practical model was developed for this conversion in U.S. industry. I must note that progressive American scholars had studied this question previously as well, but, as it were, on a theoretical plane, while here a model was actually developed. It included calculations according to which with a reduction in military spending of 14.3 billion dollars in the United States, it would be possible to create an additional 777,000 jobs in civilian production. They also calculated how many jobs would be created, for instance, by 1 billion dollars invested in the military industry and how many more jobs this sum would create in peacetime branches of the national economy.

In a number of other countries the initiative for developing a model for conversion was taken up by the trade unions of enterprises that produce military products. These included, in particular, the trade union organizations of the British firms Lucas Aerospace and Vickers, the West German firm Blom und Foss, MBB, and others.

In socialist countries during this period the matter did not proceed beyond general theoretical research, although the Soviet Union, for example, had practical experience in conversion—and not just postwar conversion, which was conducted in all countries that participated in World War II, but also during the period of unilateral reduction of armed forces and arms during the 1960's.

[TRUD] Now, consequently, life itself is raising the problem of conversion quite pointedly again because of the positive changes in the international situation and the beginning of practical disarmament.

[Mozhayev] Yes, this is obvious. But one must not forget about the other side of the matter, for the workers continue to be under extremely heavy pressure from military expenditures. A good deal has been written about this, but here are a couple more figures. In 1986, 51 percent of the federal taxes in the United States were spent on military programs. At the same time, 35 million Americans were living below the poverty level that year. In England, according to calculations of the economic committee of the British Trade Union Congress, military expenditures were more than 3 times greater than allocations for the development of trade, industry, and employment security taken together, and almost 4 times greater than allocations for housing construction. In the FRG one F-122 frigate takes from the budget enough money to build 4,500 inexpensive apartments.

These problems are critical in the developing countries as well. They spend immense amounts of money on arms and conducting military activities. Incidentally, in 65 armed conflicts conducted in the "Third World" from 1965 to 1982 about 11 million people died. In the world as a whole, according to U.N. figures, about 7 percent of the gross national product is allotted for military purposes. The overall sum of military expenditures has approached 1 trillion dollars a year.

It is now clear what benefits the workers could gain if these enormous amounts of money were used in the name of peace; if they were used for peaceful, mainly social, needs!

[TRUD] But recently a certain amount has been done on the plane of practical conversion....

[Mozhayev] Indeed, the agreement on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and the new Soviet proposals have again led to advancement of the work in the area of conversion. Certain practical steps are also being taken. We know, for example, that after the missiles of this class were removed from the GDR, the premises released as a result of this were turned over to the German trade unions to be transformed into houses of recreation. In Hungary they are working on the problem of peaceful utilization of facilities that were turned over to the Hungarian side after some of the Soviet military contingents left the country.

We know of practical steps for conversion in the USSR—the production of peacetime products, from machine tools to children's strollers, at missile enterprises of Votkinsk and Volgograd, and the transformation of towing tractors for SS-20 missiles into cranes, and so forth.

The trade unions have made many suggestions in the area of conversion in recent years. Thus, the WFTU at the third special UN session on disarmament came out in favor of the creation, with UN participation, of trade unions that would accumulate the funds saved as a result of disarmament and use them for social purposes and the needs of development. We also suggested that a point about conversion be included in any bilateral or multilateral disarmament agreement.

The Dublin committee added to its previous requirement of converting military budgets the proposal to develop plans for the "conversion of brains"—that is, to use for peaceful purposes scientific and technical personnel now employed in the design and production of arms. According to UN figures, throughout the world there are about 7.5 million such personnel.

We know that we are only at the beginning of the path. Many difficulties lie ahead of us. So far we are just leaving the stage of development. But we are filled with optimism, for this is the main path and it corresponds to the basic interests of the workers.

Computer Enterprise With Britain, India Established

OW0302053589 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0400 GMT 30 Jan 89

[From the Novosti newscast; A. Pishchayev video report]

[Text] An introduction to a Soviet-Indian-British enterprise for the production of computer systems took place at the Moscow International Trade Center.

[Pishchayev] The meeting was held under the motto: Space reliability for on-earth technologies; on the occasion of the opening of the joint "Intertekh" enterprise. There is no doubt that its future output—personal computers, computer systems, and complexes based on microprocessor technology, special instruments, and medical and communication equipment—will be reli able. Indeed, one of the organizations taking part in the joint enterprise—one with an international reputation—is the Scientific Research Institute for Space Instrument Building of the Chief Administration for the Development and Use of Space Engineering for Economy and Research [Glavkosmos] of the USSR. Also participating in the enterprise are the Indian firm of Kohinoor Intex Private Limited [as heard] and the British company Perfect Technologies Limited. It was emphasized at the meeting that the activity of "Intertekh" is primarily aimed at implementing topical tasks in the national economy; introduction to documentation science in economy, science, management, and social infrastructure; and the development of new technologies. Special attention will be paid to computerization of light industry and providing computers to schools. [Video shows meeting, representatives of the participating companies, images on computer screens]

A pilot production line has already produced the first batch of computers. This year the enterprise plans to produce and sell at least 4,000 personal computers in our country.

At the same time, the successes of Soviet space instrument building open new prospects for realization of "Intertekh" wares in the international market. [video shows (S. Mohan), identified by screen captions as the company director]

[Begin (Mohan) recording, speaking in English, fading into Russian translation] We are very interested in establishing mutually beneficial cooperation with the Soviet Union. This has become possible, thanks to the high confidence in the leader of your state and all Soviet people. The tremendous capital being currently invested is a consequence of the great changes in your country. [end recording]

United States & Canada

Bush Outlines New Budget, Defense Priorities

LD1002105289 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Washington February 10 TASS—President George Bush made a statement this Thursday outlining "new initiatives and priorities" for the 1990 draft federal budget, which will come into force as of October 1989. The initial draft was submitted to the Congress by the previous administration. These initiatives and priorities actually boil down to some additions and amendments to it. Thus, the new Administration, as the president said, is "prepared to agree" to a one-year freeze of the real growth of the defence budget as a step to combat the federal budget deficit. The freeze wil be adjusted to inflation, however. As estimated by the CBS, such a freeze, as formulated by Bush, will not bring about a substantial reduction as compared to the previous Administration's draft.

Insisting on a real growth of military spendings in subsequent fiscal years with a view to maintaining America's strength, Bush stressed at the same time that great changes were taking place in the world, that a time of great hopes had arrived. He said he had instructed the National Security Council to review carefully the national security policies and defence strategies of the United States. The National Security Council will recommend to the President within 90 days options for U.S. policy.

Touching particularly on the changes taking place in the Soviet Union, Bush said that they required understanding and study. He said he had assured General Secretary Gorbachev that after the U.S. policy was reviewed, America would be prepared to make further headway and would not miss any opportunity to work for the sake of peace.

Bush dwelt at length on the priorities of the U.S. domestic policy, as they are seen by the Administration. He said, specifically, that the amendments to the previous Administration's 1990 draft budget provided for bigger spendings on science and education, on space research, on the solution of such problems as homelessness, AIDS, expansion and betterment of public services, lot of children in big families.

At the same time, the President acknowledged the importance of such a problem as federal budget deficit, expressed his resolution not to raise taxes, which, in the opinion of many American economists, sounds unrealistic.

Bush Wants Policy of Strength Vis-a-Vis USSR

LD1002131989 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Text] At a joint House-Senate session, U.S. President George Bush dwelled on a number of urgent problems. Aleksandr Pogodin will analyze the new President's approach to foreign policy issues, and this is what he writes:

The future of Soviet-American relations plays a particularly important role among these questions. Prospects for developing bilateral ties are essential not only to the USSR and the United states, but also to the world at large, since this relationship has invariably influenced the general international situation.

George Bush's statement testifies to a serious attitude to this problem. Having stressed the importance of changes taking place in the USSR, the President pointed to the need to comprehend and grasp them thoroughly. He has assured General Secretary Gorbachev, the President said, that upon concluding an analysis of their policy they will be ready to move forward and miss no chance to work for the sake of peace. Such an attitude can only be welcomed, for the Soviet side has also voiced willingness to continue and expand dialogue in the interests of promoting Soviet-American relations. Such a dialogue can be fruitful if both sides try to give up the past prejudices and outdated stereotypes. However, these stereotypes were reflected in the U.S. President's references to the so-called Soviet military power, which he maintained pursues goals running counter to those of the United States. Hence the conclusion that the United States must build up its military might.

George Bush emphasized his resolve to do everything in his power to carry out the star wars program. Perhaps we shouldn't have focused on the adverse motives, which were not too pronounced anyway. But the trouble is that lately, adverse tones began to dominate the statements of the President's closest aides. People he selected for taking part in working out his country's foreign and military policy have underscored the incompatibility of the United States' and Soviet interests. They insist on the need to approach the Soviet Union only from a position of strength. All this raises the question of how the new U.S. Administration intends to move forward in the area of U.S.-Soviet Relations, and use the opportunities to work for the sake of peace.

U.S. Right-Wingers Unleash Anti-Soviet 'Propaganda'

LD0902184589 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent V. Gan video report from Washington]

[Text] [Announcer] Right-wing forces in the U.S. Administration are trying to use the initial period of the work of the new Cabinet to unleash anti-Soviet propaganda.

[Gan] Pennsylvania Avenue, America's main street, still shows traces of the celebrations that accompanied the inauguration of 41st U.S. President George Bush. The ball is over, but it is still too early to say seriously that the administration has gotten down to work, for the administration is only just trying out the new chairs and starting to work out its political platform.

In other words, a kind of vacuum exists at the moment in the higher U.S. echelons, when the brake has, as it were, been applied to the work of the administration. There is nothing unusual about this phenomenon. But there is another thing that attracts attention: the sharp increase in the activity of right-wing forces in the United States who are trying to fill this vacuum and use the power vacuum to nudge Washington into conducting a policy from their positions. In relation to us, this is confrontation, diktat, and pressure, and the language of the buildup of the arms race.

This unseemly campaign is being conducted not only in the background, but also in the press and on radio and television. In just the last few days, for example, a whole series of crudely-produced anti-Soviet articles, full of falsifications and disinformation, have appeared in the capital's press. THE WASHINGTON TIMES, citing naive officials, claims that the Soviet Union is continuing to manufacture bacteriological weapons, and is even selling them to other countries. It has also revived the already exposed slander to the effect that it was allegedly Moscow that was involved in the death of Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, in 1979. For its part, THE WASHINGTON POST gave space to two right-wing observers, Evans and Novak, who state that, according to some kind of data unearthed by someone, the Soviet Union organized the air crash in which Pakistani President Ziaul Haq was killed.

Soviet journalists have turned to the State Department and the White House for an explanation. Their representatives, however, have said they know nothing about such facts. In other words, all these claims are just entire fabrications and designed to confuse the American people, disorient the new administration, and poison Soviet-U.S. relations with venom and insinuations.

The wave of anti-Sovietism that has now been raised has reached such a level that the USSR Embassy has found it necessary to lodge a protest with the State Department and draw its attention to the pledges undertaken by both sides to expose disinformation and counter it with the truth. It is obvious that only in this way will it be possible to strengthen the positive things that have already been achieved in our relations. [Video shows Gan standing on Pennsylvania Avenue opposite White House and in front of viewing areas being dismantled; close-ups shown of pages from newspapers carrying articles mentioned.]

'Delta-183' To Test 'Star Wars' Technology

PM1002092389 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 89 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Experiment in Preparation"]

[Text] Washington, 6 Feb—The Pentagon is preparing to hold the next comprehensive experiment in space within the "star wars" program. The newspaper DEFENSE NEWS has reported that this spring the "Delta" missile will take a military satellite into orbit. Over several months there will be tests of the sensors mounted on it making it possible to distinguish—by the flare from the rocket motor—between an ICBM in flight and warheads that are also real intercept targets.

The upcoming "Delta-183" tests include a series of launches of small missiles from air force bases on America's Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

TASS Reports Baker Tour of NATO Countries

LD1002073289 Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Washington February 10 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Andrey Fedyashin:

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker leaves on a week-long tour of 15 NATO capitals on Friday.

During his first foreign trip he will visit Ottawa, Reykjavik, London, Bonn, Oslo, Copenhagen, Ankara, Athens, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Brussels, Luxembourg, The Hague and Paris.

Baker is due to return to Washington on February 17.

During the visits, Baker will hold talks with the foreign ministers of allied countries, meet heads of state and government, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, and leaders of the European Economic Community.

Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, said on the eve of the trip that Baker will discuss East-West relations and arms control issues with NATO countries.

However, she added, the forthcoming talks have no definite agenda and will mainly concern general alliance problems.

Analysts are associating Baker's trip with the Bush Administration's determination to work out its own stand on superpower relations and on arms control negotiations.

Washington politicians have already voiced discontent with the fact that the new administration has been slow to outline its foreign policies.

President Bush said, however, that he is ready to build on progress reached in U.S.-Soviet relations in the last few years.

He also said he is reviewing former President Reagan's policy in this field and is not going to take any hasty steps.

Armenian Children Visit U.S. for Treatment

Armenian Leaders See Off Children

NC0902124489 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Thirty-two children from Leninakan, Kirovakan, Spitak, and other earthquake devastated regions left Yerevan for the United States yesterday on board a special airplane provided by the U.S. Government. They will undergo rehabilitation treatment at Washington clinics, where the appropriate methods of treatment will be decided upon according to need. The children are accompanied by their parents. American and Soviet specialists will monitor the medical condition of the children.

Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee; Galust Galoyan, secretary of the Central Committee; and (?Emil Gabriyelyan), Armenia's health minister, went to Zvartnots Airport to see the children off and to wish them a good trip and a speedy recovery.

(William Waltz), vice-president of the American HOPE organization, said at the airport: Our best specialists will try to do their utmost for the Armenian children, and offer everything that is possible in contemporary surgery.

Suren Arutyunyan expressed thanks for the care shown to the Armenian people and for the (?compassionate) and humanitarian attitude toward the children who were victims of the natural disaster.

Barbara Bush Welcomes Children

LD0902230489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2055 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Washington, 9 Feb (TASS)—A U.S. C-141 military transport aircraft arrived at Andrews Air Force base near Washington today, carrying 32 Soviet children who were injured during the earthquake in Armenia. They will be taken to 10 U.S. military hospitals where they will undergo a course of treatment. The aircraft was visited by Barbara Bush, the wife of the U.S. President, who welcomed the children and wished them a speedy recovery. At the airbase, the children from Soviet Armenia were greeted by Vazgen I, the catholicos of all Armenians, who is making a visit to the United States; by Yuriy Dubinin, USSR ambassador to the United States; and by senators and congressmen.

Northeast Asia

ROK To Set Up Trade Office With USSR

SK0802074789 Seoul YONHAP in English 0731 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union, Poland and Bulgaria will open trade offices here next month, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) announced Wednesday. With the trade offices of Hungary and Yugoslavia already established here, it brings the number of communist countries with economic missions in South Korea to five.

South Korea and the Soviet Union will open trade offices in March in Moscow and Seoul under agreement between Yi Sun-ki, chairman of Kotra, and Vladislav Malkevich, chairman of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, reached last December.

Kotra will send a large trade mission to Moscow in July to host a Korean goods fair to mark the opening of the Korean trade office in the Soviet capital.

Korea and Poland will also exchange trade offices in March, ahead of schedule. Under an agreement between Kotra and the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade last November, the two countries had planned to exchange trade offices in the first half of this year.

Kotra also plans to dispatch a trade mission to Poland to participate at the world exhibition slated for June 11 to 18 in Poznan and to host an opening ceremony of the Korean trade office in Warsaw.

Korea will exchange with Bulgaria trade offices in March ahead of schedule. The two countries originally planned to set up their trade offices in Seoul and Sofia in the first half of this year under the agreement between the Kotra and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry last December.

The Kotra plans to send a trade mission to Bulgaria to take part in an international exhibition slated for May 8 to 14 in Plovdiv and to host the opening ceremony of the Korean trade office in Sofia.

Soviet Civil Aviation Planes Can Fly to Seoul

OW1002064389 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Soviet Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation Ratnikov said planes of the Soviet Civil Aviation Company will fly to Seoul, capital of South Korea. He said: According to an agreement reached with China, aircraft of the Soviet Civil Aviation Company will fly the Moscow-Shanghai-Seoul route.

Hungary-ROK Delegation Ends Vladivostok Visit

LD0902223689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The visit to Vladivostok by the joint Hungarian-South Korean delegation has ended. This marks one of the first visits to our countries of businessmen and representatives from South Korean business circles. The composition of the delegation included experts in construction, timber processing, ship repairs, fishing, and coal processing. The Hungarian comrades are acting as middlemen between the Soviets and the South Koreans.

The purpose of the visit was for them to familiarize themselves with the economy of the Maritime Kray and study the opportunities for establishing direct contacts and business cooperation.

DPRK Denies Military Exercises With USSR

PM0902143188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Meeting in Panmunjom"]

[Text] Panmunjom, Feb 8—Representatives of the DPRK and South Korea meeting in Panmunjom, which is in the demilitarized zone separating the North of the peninsula from the South, today began preparation for the military political talks at the head-of-government level. The sides set out their positions on the agenda for, participants in, and procedure of the forthcoming talks. Their aim is to remove the political and military tension and establish inter-Korean cooperation.

In the interests of ensuring the progress of the talks, the DPRK urged Seoul to end the Team Spirit-89 U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers, which are an obstacle to dialogue. It was suggested to the South Korean side in particular that it refrain from involving foreign troops in its maneuvers.

The Seoul delegation asserted that questions relating to the staging of maneuvers have no bearing on the theme of the preparatory meeting, but at the same time it did not rule out the possibility of discussing them at the future talks between the heads of government.

Addressing journalists after the meeting, a DPRK representative condemned the South Korean side's attempts to justify Team Spirit by claiming that joint exercises are conducted between the armed forces of the USSR and the DPRK. It was stated that the Soviet Union and the DPRK do not hold such maneuvers. Reciprocal visits by Soviet and DPRK warships are of a protocol character and are not military maneuvers. At the same time, it was stated that the South Korean side's position will be noted.

As KCNA reported today, the DPRK has decided to postpone the eighth meeting to prepare for the interparliamentary forum between North and South Korea until the Team Spirit-89 maneuvers are over. It had previously been scheduled for 10 February next.

South East Asia & Pacific

SRV Ministry Applauds USSR-PRC Ties

LD0902131589 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Hanoi February 9 TASS—Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to China is a new landmark in the normalisation of relations between the two countries, a preparatory step towards a Soviet-Chinese summit meeting. This is pointed out in the comment of the SRV Foreign Ministry, circulated here at the request of foreign pressmen.

Vietnam welcomes the continuation of the process of normalising relations between the Soviet Union and China. It believes that a Soviet-Chinese summit is bound to be an important international event. Complete normalisation of relations between the two countries meets the interests of both peoples. It will be a most important contribution to the cause of peace and stability throughout the world, especially in the Asian-Pacific region.

The statement of the Soviet and Chinese Foreign Ministries on the Kampuchean problem will contribute to its earliest rational settlement, as well as to the cause of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the comment points out.

Sino-Soviet Talks Favorably Affect Indochina

BK1002091789 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The question of overseeing the process of implementing obligations contained in the latest international agreements is the primary focus of world attention. Before this, the question was applied in respect to relations between the Soviet Union and the United States; now it is under active debate in the Vienna CSCE. This question is no less important in the Asia-Pacific region, and many complicated political processes are now under way in this region. The most crucial of these is the normalization of the situation in Cambodia and neighboring countries. In a settlement of the Cambodian conflict, the question of ensuring international supervision and monitoring the implementation of the pledges made by all the parties concerned has so far remained extremely complicated.

This became obvious when, in late May 1988, the SRV and PRK Governments announced their agreement that Vietnamese troops would be completely withdrawn from Cambodia by 1990. On the one hand, Samdech Sihanouk's clique, in conjunction with the so-called KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] led by Son Sann, demanded a guarantee that the Vietnamese troops will genuinely be withdrawn from Cambodia. At the same time, there was obvious concern that following the Vietnamese troop withdrawal, power would once again fall to the Pol Pot group. The latter still remains militarily strong, but what is important is that it continues to receive military support and assistance from a number of states.

However, doubt about the sincerity of V am and Cambodia was gradually eased thanks to the unwavering policy of the fraternal countries in Indochina. Foreign observers have been invited to witness the process of the withdrawals of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia. Vietnam and Cambodia drew up a precise timetable for the troop withdrawals and announced that a complete withdrawal could be completed earlier if an appropriate agreement is reached among the concerned parties. Because a guarantee has already been made for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops, it is thus imperative to prevent a return to power of the Pol Pot group and to stop aiding the opposition that has not yet made any kind of promise.

In this complicated situation on the eve of the second meeting of the Cambodian parties in Indonesia, it is worth recalling the joint statement issued by the Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers. In the document, the two sides hold that it is necessary and important to establish an international control commission for exerting strict control over the process of Vietnamese troop withdrawals and the cessation of outside military aid, maintaining peace, and organizing free elections in Cambodia. Moreover, the Soviet Union and China jointly pledge to provide international guarantees to Cambodia as an independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned state. It was very significant that the two giant countries knew how to compromise on a number of issues of vital importance concerning a settlement of the Cambodian problem. At present, the possibility of creating a guarantee for a political and peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem would certainly contribute to expediting the restoration of peace in Cambodia—which has indefinitely experienced suffering—and easing foreign policy tension in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

CPV's 59th Anniversary Commemorated

BK0602151389 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 3 Feb 89

["Talk by Radio Moscow observer (Lenstov) marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the CPV"]

[Text] On this momentous day, the communists and all working people in our country warmly greet the militant vanguard of the Vietnamese people. The Soviet people are well aware of the glorious path already traversed by the CPV. Under its leadership, the Vietnamese people have gained national freedom and independence, reunified the country, and thwarted external forces' schemes against Vietnam's prestige and great name. Looking back on the path traversed by the CPV, it can again be seen that no political force other than a Marxist-Leninist party can arm the people with a clear understanding of the goal of the struggle and thus lead them to great exploits.

The Soviet Union deeply respects the CPV's history. Selected works of Ho Chi Minh and other noted Vietnamese party activists compiled by the CPV's publishing house have been published many times in our country. The Soviet mass media have for decades introduced the Vietnamese Communists' activities and armed exploits during the fierce struggle against the aggressors, their achievements in peaceful construction, and problems now facing Vietnam in its development. Soviet writers, composers, painters, and sculptors have depicted the Vietnamese Communists in their works. Close ties have been established between party schools and revolutionary museums of our two countries. With Soviet help, the Ho Chi Minh Museum is being built in Hanoi. Lenin's monument in the capital of Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh's monument at a Moscow square named after the Vietnamese revolutionary leader finely symbolize our fraternity—one with a glorious history.

Today we recall the activities of Comrade Ho Chi Minh in the Soviet Union. While in the homeland of Lenin in the 1920's and 1930's, he laid down the principles for founding the Communist Party as well as the strategies and tactics for the revolutionary struggle in Vietnam. We still remember the articles he wrote for the Soviet party newspapers during those years, as well as his ardent speeches at various Communist Party congresses in Moscow.

Our people also remember the 1919 event in which Ton Duc Thang, then a young sailor aboard a French cruiser whose guns were trained on the revolutionary city of Odessa, hoisted up a red flag to show solidarity with the young Soviet republic. The sailors' mutiny, of which Comrade Ton Duc Thang was one of the leaders, forced the imperialist fleet to pull away from the Soviet coast.

At Ho Chi Minh's request, Comrades Tran Phu, Le Hong Phong, and Nguyen Thi Minh Khai arrived in our country before the Communist Party was founded in Vietnam. Comrade Le Hong Phong became the first Vietnamese pilot to graduate from a Soviet flight school. Meanwhile, Comrade Nguyen Thi Minh Khai held intimate talks with Comrade Natalya Krupskaya, Lenin's wife and comrade-in-arms. Forever recorded in history are the armed exploits of the Vietnamese Communist fighters who were in Moscow when the German fascists began their attack on the Soviet Union. These comrades volunteered to join the Red Army and participated in the historic military parade at Red Square on 7 November 1941, when the German fascists were only 15 km from the Soviet capital. After the parade, they went straight to the front line and made sacrifices in the defense of the land of the October Revolution. Radio Moscow has for many years busied itself with establishing the names of these Vietnamese internationalist fighters, and we know about some of them today. These heroes have been posthumously decorated with Soviet orders, and their armed exploits have been the theme of a Soviet television movie and many articles published by the Soviet and Vietnamese party newspapers. Our fraternalism has asserted its effectiveness during the years of arduous struggle by the Vietnamese people against the aggressors, as well as during the postwar reconstruction period.

On this occasion, we recall Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's speech marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] Hitherto, the Vietnamese Communists and people have always deeply held the truism that without Lenin and the October Revolution, there would be no Indochinese Communist Party, the predecessor of the CPV; that without the Soviet Union's victory over fascism, there would be no August Revolution in Vietnam; and that without the Soviet Union and its great assistance, a nation brutally enslaved and invaded by colonialism and imperialism for over a century like the Vietnamese nation could not gain total independence, reunify the country, and advance toward socialism without passing through the stage of capitalist development. [end recording]

Dear friends, the Soviet and Vietnamese people are carrying out revolutionary tasks of the restructing and renovation processes laid down by our two Communist Parties, and we are doing this together, just as in the past. The issue here is not only to exchange experience, but also to establish direct relations between party organizations of every city, province, and production enterprise in our two countries. Communist Party members are among the advocates of new, effective forms of bilateral economic cooperation. Today, millions of Soviet party members are participating in broad programs of cooperation between us, and they will continue to do so.

Near East & South Asia

Divisions, Fighting Within Afghan Rebel Ranks

'Seven-Party' Leader Replaced

PM1002162989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Review prepared by Yevg. Bay and G. Charodeyev: "Afghanistan: Still a Possibility of a Compromise"]

[Excerpts] REUTER carries the following report from Islamabad marked "urgent": Just a few hours before the opening of the consultative council, or "shura," in Rawalpindi contradictions have intensified among various Afghan opposition factions. The delegates from the eight Shiite mujahidin parties are ready to return to Iran, while information is coming out of Peshawar that the leader of the "Seven-Party Alliance" has been removed.

A spokesman for Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, the alliance leader, declared that the Supreme Council of "the seven" had attempted Friday morning to resolve the growing contradictions with the Iran-based mujahidin, who are Shiites (the latter insist on being given 80 seats on the "shura," in which a total of 526 delegates will participate), but the sides failed to reach agreement.

In addition, as the armed opposition's news agency reported, S. Mojadeddi was replaced in the post of alliance leader by Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, a moderate figure.

According to the opposition leaders' plan, the "shura," which was scheduled for 10 February, was meant to form a "transitional government" to replace Afghanistan's present leadership. The mujahidin have spent several months trying to clear up relations among themselves but, as can be seen, have failed to achieve any unity. REUTER reports that three moderate parties among "the seven" in this connection proposed postponing the date of the "shura." [passage omitted]

The future of Afghanistan will be one of the most important topics at the talks between Pakistan and China during Prime Minister B. Bhutto's 3-day visit to Beijing, which begins Saturday, UPI reports. During the talks in Beijing the two countries' leaders will attempt to outline a common strategy with regard to Afghanistan. REUTER emphasizes that Pakistan has given its blessing to the creation of an interim government by the leaders of the Afghan opposition. Chinese diplomats in Islamabad, however, express doubt that a future government composed only of mujahidin will be able to bring peace to the land of Afghanistan.

Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the National People's Party, has urged the Pakistani Government to observe the letter and spirit of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. Addressing the National Assembly (the lower chamber of parliament), he pointed out that after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan will have no justification for continuing weapons deliveries to the armed opposition.

For their part, the Afghan authorities are making every effort to keep the door to reaching a political compromise open. [passage omitted]

Opposition Forces Clash

PM1002145389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Feb 89 Morning Edition pp 1,4

[Roundup of press reports by Yevg. Bay in Moscow and Yu. Kosinskiy in Geneva under the rubric "Abroad": "Lull in Kabul, Discord in Peshawar"]

[Text] The departure of the Soviet troops has left its mark on the Afghan capital. Armed police and volunteer detachments have tightened up control of transport and you encounter more military patrols than you did before. But on the whole, agencies report, the city is living in the old measured way.

REUTER has carried an extensive report by its correspondent from Kabul Airport, which is still guarded by a small contingent of Soviet troops. Between 20 and 25 IL-76 aircraft land and take off from here every day, bringing food supplies to the population. Quoting Soviet spokesmen, the agency points out that, since the beginning of January, 9,000 tonnes of foodstuffs have been airlifted into Kabul, and plans are to transport another 6,000 tonnes by next Wednesday, which is when all the Soviet troops will have left Afghanistan.

The incoming and outgoing aircraft, REUTER reports, are still being escorted by MI-24 helicopters to provide a covering force. At the same time, Soviet pilots are preparing to turn over the airport to the Afghan Armed Forces.

While the air bridge between Kabul and Tashkent is constantly in action, a real row has flared up in Islamabad in connection with sending the first UN aid consignment to the population of Kabul. IZVESTIYA has already reported that an Egyptian Boeing-707 was supposed to fly from there on Tuesday, with 32 tonnes of food and medicines on board. At the last moment, however, its crew refused to leave, citing the "lack of safety" for flights over Afghanistan. With the active intervention of Aga Khan, the UN coordinator for supplying aid to Afghanistan, this problem has now been solved. It has been announced that an aircraft belonging to the Ethiopian airline will leave Islamabad for Quetta on Friday, take another consignment of supplies on board, and then fly to Kabul.

Commenting on the stand taken by the United States and West European states regarding Afghanistan, the press points out that they are waiting to see what is going to happen to Kabul over the next few days and weeks. The West German newspaper SAARBRUECKER ZEITUNG writes: "Instead of using its influence to reach a political solution, the West is demonstrating total passivity. But Afghanistan could become an example of how complex problems can be resolved through joint efforts."

Against the background of indifference on the part of the United States and a number of European states, the active involvement of UN representatives in efforts to achieve a political settlement in Afghanistan particularly stands out in contrast. On 9 February, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar had a meeting with his special representative, Diego Cordovez. Stressing that the troop withdrawal is an important step in the direction of implementing the Geneva agreements, they agreed that D. Cordovez will prepare a report by 15 February for the sides and guarantors signatory to these agreements. After this, the UN secretary general will report back to the Security Council on the situation regarding implementation of the accords.

Active efforts are also being made by other international organizations, particularly the International Red Cross Committee. As our correspondent reported from Geneva, the International Red Cross Committee will continue its humanitarian mission in Afghanistan. "We not only have no intention of evacuating personnel from Kabul, we even plan to enlarge our presence in Afghanistan," Karlos Bover [name as transliterated], spokesman for the headquarters of this organization, said.

Meanwhile, information of a quite different nature is still coming from Peshawar, the residence of the "Alliance of Seven." At least four people have been seriously injured, according to REUTER, as a result of clashes between supporters of Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, and his opponents from the mujahidin. The clash took place just 2 days before the opening of the consultative council, or "shura," on 10 February which, according to the leader of the "Alliance of Seven," must elect a "provisional government" of Afghanistan.

The author of an article in THE WASHINGTON POST, also sent from Peshawar, writes that "the mujahidin surrounding Kabul still cannot reach agreement on the strategy for vanquishing the government units defending the Afghan capital."

While continuing to sort things out between themselves, the rebels are still shelling Kabul with rockets. According to a TASS report, seven people were killed and 21 injured on 8 February as a result of one of these projectiles exploding not far from a bus stop in the city center.

Among the numerous reports on events surrounding Afghanistan, one piece of news which could not fail to attract the editorial office's attention stands out in particular. A REUTER report from Ankara says the Turkish Government has accepted the Soviet proposal to assist in freeing Soviet military servicemen taken prisoner. This question in particular will be discussed during Turkish President Kenan Evren's visit to Pakistan next week.

'Deep Disagreements' in Rawalpindi

LD0902210289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 9 Feb 89

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Boris Andrianov]

[Text] As Western news agencies report, it is planned that the first session of the so-called consultative council of all Afghan opposition groupings based in Pakistan and Iran be held tomorrow in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi. Their representatives, according to the plan of the organizers of this meeting, are to form a transitional government of Afghanistan instead of the current leadership of the country.

Acute arguments have been preceding the convening of this council. They have shown that there are deep disagreements in the ranks of the opposition. A number of its members have refused to take part in the proceedings of the council, believing that the idea of a transitional government is not realistic in its present form. A part of the opposition with extremist leanings is refusing, as before, to enter into contacts with the Kabul authorities.

In a word, another attempt is obviously being made to act separately, without reckoning with the real situation of affairs. The mujahidin leaders do not wish to opt for a compromise, rejecting any possible talks with the Afghan Government.

And yet, it is this government that is a real military and economic force, holding practical power in the country. And this is precisely the government that is doing everything possible to reach a compromise and form a really all-embracing coalition government that would be comprised of representatives from all groupings, all political forces of the country, and that would speak for the interests of all sides.

The opposition does not wish to reckon with the PDPA. But it is simply illogical to ignore it. The PDPA is a reality, whether one likes it or not, and it is the most influential force in today's Afghanisan. Besides, the PDPA does not claim to hold a monopoly on power. On the contrary, it is ready to share power and enter into the organs of power with other representatives of the Afghan people on an equal basis, whether they are mujahidin representatives or political or religious activists scattered over many countries.

So, any atempts to remove the PDPA from taking part in forming a coalition government can mean only one thing—an aspiration to continue the war and multiply the number of fratricidal victims. But how many Afghan people must surrender their lives in order to meet the excessive ambitions of the opposition leaders from among the so-called irreconcilables. It is time for them to come to their senses. And here an essential role could be played by the United Nations. Getting the United Nations to actively participate in the cause of a practical peace settlement would undoubtedly be useful. It would contribute toward preventing a civil war in Afghanistan.

There is still time for a peaceful settlement. It is now important not to miss it.

Departing Soviet Military Convoy Attacked

LD0902195889 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is continuing. Here is a report from our correspondent Mikhail Leshchinskiy.

[Leshchinskiy] [passage omitted] The previous day saw an occurrence—admittedly the only one so far—of the shelling of a moving convoy. Igor Likhovich from Donetsk, a driver-mechanic, was killed. May God grant, as they say, that that is the last death in this land, in this war. But once the Hindu Kush has been crossed, you can relax a little, and if you wish you can rest and refresh yourself. The aromas of field kitchens with the famous soldiers' porridge rise up from the cold snows. The soldiers sit on the frost-covered armored vehicles to sip their hot tea. And then, on the road again; toward the motherland and those who are waiting. Now nothing can stop that movement.

Rebels Unable To Take Advantage of Pullout

Overall Military Situation Viewed

PM1002153189 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 89 p 3

[O. Shevtsov report under the general heading "We Are Leaving, What Next?": "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] A briefing for foreign and Soviet journalists conducted by G. Gerasimov, chief of the Information Administration, and a press conference by Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Afghan ambassador to the USSR, were held at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center yesterday.

It was reported during the briefing that the Afghan Armed Forces continue on the whole to control the situation in the country. The most difficult task for the government troops is protecting the roads used to supply regional centers. Some posts handed over to the Afghan troops by the Soviet side have been seized by rebels, one has been recovered, and fighting for another four posts is still going on.

The rebels continue to receive the bulk of their military aid from Pakistan. This was shown by a recent report by a journalist from the United States who participated in the delivery of American weapons to Afghanistan. Reinforcements for the armed opposition are also coming from Pakistan, some of them having been sent, in particular, to the Panjshir region.

Large formations of the implacable opposition have been brought up to the cities of Jalalabad and Qandahar.

The Afghan Army has carried out retaliatory bombing and strafing strikes against rebel concentrations. According to official representatives, the armed opposition has suffered considerable losses in a number of districts in Nangarhar, Herat, and Konduz provinces.

The Afghan Government is seeking various ways of establishing peace in the country as part of the course of national reconciliation. Every measure to enhance the combat readiness of the Afghan Armed Forces and organize the defense of major centers and other population settlements after the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent is being carried out at the same time. The creation of PDPA armed detachments is regarded as an important step in this direction. Here the Afghan ambassador to the USSR stressed that PDPA members had been armed at their request and not because there are any grounds for doubting the regular armed forces' fighting efficiency.

Despite the difficult weather conditions (landslides and ice-covered roads), the timetable for the Soviet contingent's withdrawal is being fully adhered to. It was noted that the rebels are not impeding the withdrawal or engaging in active operations against our military subunits.

Soviet economic and military aid and food supplies to the Afghan population are continuing. Each day 30-35 aircraft deliver 500-700 tonnes of food to Kabul.

The Pakistani president's statement on the possibility of creating a united Islamic federation with Afghanistan is regarded by the Afghan leadership as treacherous and aimed at undermining a peaceful settlement after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country. Dismay is also being caused by the stance adopted by certain Western powers which continue, despite their verbal approval of the Geneva accords, to build up military supplies to the armed opposition, and which state that even UN food aid via a "government that has lost its purpose" is inexpedient. Too many official Cassandras have appeared who predict the rapid fall of the "authorities in Kabul" without taking due account of the real development of events.

Western 'Propaganda Campaign' Seen

PM1002131589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 89 First Edition pp 1,5

[TASS correspondent Yu. Tyssovskiy dispatch specially for PRAVDA: "Kabul On Alert"]

[Text] Kabul—There was a whoosh in the sky and then the brief bang of an explosion. Cries of horror and despair were heard on the streets around the Bibi Mahru quarter of the Afghan capital. There was a jagged hole in the asphalt and within a perimeter (as published] of 50 meters lay bleeding bodies. Seven, including women and a child, would never get up again. More than 20 civilians were injured. Their injuries ranged from serious to minor.

This happened late yesterday afternoon. A "surface-to-surface" missile was launched on the densely populated city—Kabul has given refuge to more than 1 million refugees during this troubled time—by fanatics from the so-called "hard-liners." It has been a long time, approximately 3 months, with rare exceptions, since the capital was subjected to massive rocket bombardment, yet more than 150 missiles sometimes fell on the city every day in the summer and early fall.

Time will tell whether this missile was fired accidentally by the uncontrolled criminal gangs, of which there are many on the outskirts of the capital and whose actions are unpredictable, or whether the missile that landed on Bibi Mahru heralded the start of the latest upsurge of intransigence and brutality in the ranks of the "fighters for the faith."

Soviet troop units have left Kabul—with the exception of a small subunit still guarding the airport—and by 15 February not a single Soviet soldier will remain in the country. Isn't that what the leaders of the "Peshawar Seven"—who shouted at the tops of their voices that the Kabul regime would fall virtually the next day—have dreamed of?

There have been no Soviet soldiers in Jalalabad, Ghazni, or Gardeyz since 15 May last year, nor in Qandahar and Badakhshan since August. Throughout this time Qandahar and Jalalabad were the main objectives of the incessant attacks carried out by tens of thousands of fighters from hard-line opposition detachments. Nevertheless, government troops have successfully rebuffed all their feeble attempts, despite the extremely difficult conditions in which they have had to fight. The conclusions are self-evident.

Most Western embassies have lowered their flags and their staff have left Kabul. All this has been accompanied by a noisy propaganda campaign. A campaign, moreover, that has such transparent political aims that even a child can understand them: It is not concern for the citizens of a particular country that is motivating diplomats but a desire to create a nervous atmosphere in the capital and convince the West of the "explosiveness" of this atmosphere. Such actions are one manifestation of the psychological war being waged against Afghanistan, notably on the airwaves of the Western "radio voices."

This includes cock-and-bull stories of virtual general starvation in Kabul. Soviet journalists, like all other people living in the city, visit the capital's bazaars and markets virtually every day. No one even tries to deny that the city is in a difficult situation with regard to food and fuel supplies owing to a whole series of factors. These include the extremely complex situation in the area of the Salang pass through which consignments from the USSR enter Kabul, the frosts and ice-covered highways, the sluggishness of state officials who have not been concerned with creating the necessary stocks, the criminal actions of some merchants trying to line their own pockets through the population's privations, and, lastly, the economic blockade that extremists from the opposition groupings are endeavoring to establish. But talk of universal starvation is a lie. The markets are full of fruit and vegetables, and meat carcasses hang in traders' stores. Naturally, prices have rocketed, and rocketed substantially, but that has always happened in winter when there have been holdups with food, kerosene, and gas deliveries.

The crisis in the capital's flour supply was extremely acute in mid-January, also for various reasons. At that time army trucks appeared on the streets and Soviet soldiers distributed rice, flour, sugar, and kerosene to the inhabitants quite free of charge. At the beginning of the third 10-day period in January a massive airlift from the Soviet Union began whereby 3,500 tonnes of flour—

enough to eliminate the crisis—were transferred to Kabul in a very short period in the first phase. The deliveries are still continuing now.

Yesterday I visited the area of Kabul airport where the powerful Il-76 aircraft land. It is being guarded by a small subunit of Soviet soldiers. "Our task," Colonel P. Vinokurov, chief of the backup operations group, said, "is to provide the capital with grain and thus ease the lot of the inhabitants, especially those with low incomes who have found themselves in a difficult position with food. We receive up to 35 aircraft a day, most of which are Il-76's. We are the last Soviet servicemen in Kabul, we are ready to follow our comrades who have already left the city, and we are dreaming of returning home soon."

The intensity of the flights themselves is very high. You can sometimes see 3-4 giants in the sky over Kabul at once, taking turns to land and covering the blue sky with a picturesque and ghostly haze from their infrared flares designed to protect the aircraft from possible "Stinger" attacks or other projectiles. Mikhail Benyash, the commander of one of the transports, told me that he had made 14 flights in the last 20 days with his fellow crew members. "The work is, of course, extremely strenuous," he said. "We bring grain here and take out military equipment and the boys with it." Then he glanced around and let slip with some sadness: "Now we're not taking anything out; it's deserted here. We'll fulfill our task and then, goodbye Kabul"...

Life in Kabul today is following a businesslike rhythm, which is even perplexing to foreign journalists, who expected to see the capital under martial law. One often encounters police and volunteer patrols on the streets checking street transport in order to prevent sabotage. It is well known that the thousands of refugees from the zone of hostilities who have found shelter in the capital include "fifth columnists," whom the hard-line opposition is now mainly counting on. After the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal, saboteurs will obviously resort to explosions, terror, and acts of provocation.

The explosion of the missile that landed on the peaceful street in the Bibi Mahru quarter is a sinister warning: The "hard-liners" are prepared to help their agents "from outside" by spreading panic among the inhabitants. That is why there are now 338 security posts in operation in Kabul manned by more than 2,000 members of the PDPA. The backbone of the civil defense detachments is also made up of party members, both at residences and also at 250 economic facilities. Kabul is on the alert.

Rebels Blocking Roads, Attacking Food Convoys

Shelling of Cities Decried

LD0902184789 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul February 9 TASS—The Soviet Union has practically completed the withdrawal of its limited contingent from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva Accords, and the rebels no longer have a pretext for continuing the bloodshed, Lieutenant-General Muhammad Asef Delawar, [rank as received] chief of the Afghan Armed Forces General Staff, said at a news conference in Kabul on Thursday [9 February].

However, the armed opposition is determined to continue the war. It is shelling Afghan cities and populated localities, killing and wounding innocent civilians.

In an attempt to strangle the Afghan capital, the insurgents are blocking roads and attacking food and fuel convoys heading for Kabul.

It is quite obvious that there can be no military settlement to the Afghan internal conflict. Constructive dialogue of all the sides concerned is the only way to achieve peace in Afghanistan and guarantee security to its people.

The Afghan Armed Forces, Delawar said further, are able to defend independently the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of their homeland and the honour of their people from any enemy encroachments. Members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) form the backbone of the Afghan Armed Forces. Afghan soldiers are showing examples of genuine heroism. If the extremists try to seize Kabul by force, they will get a resolute rebuff.

But, the Afghan Government, committed to the principles of political realism, is leaving the doors open for talks with the rebels, the Afghan military leader said in conclusion.

Western 'Complicity' Noted

PM0902195189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Political observer V. Matveyev article under the rubric "Events: Essence and Opinions": "Help in the Hour of Need. The Healing of Afghanistan's War Wound Brooks No Delay"]

[Text] The last contingents of Soviet troops are leaving Afghanistan. Everyone can see the precision with which our country is carrying out its pledges under the Geneva agreements. This also applies in full to the task—now facing us squarely in the face—of restoring Afghanistan's war-torn economy, the task of satisfying the urgent needs of its population. The Soviet Union renders significant assistance to the Afghan people in solving this task, which is as complex as it is vitally important. For this purpose, our country acts both on a bilateral basis and through the United Nations.

Soviet humanitarian aid takes the form of supplies of food, petroleum products, and consumer goods. Our aid pledges to Afghanistan in the form of gifts alone amount to several hundred million rubles. It was reported that

1,400 railcars with freight sent from many regions of the USSR to meet the Afghan people's needs were to be found on the tracks in Termez in mid-November last year.

These needs are great. Long waiting lines outside bread stores form during the night, before they open. Many women with babies in their arms... Trucks without gasoline at a time when cities and the countryside alike desperately need primary necessities... Children stripping tree bark in their search for fuel to light fires at home...

Such scenes in Kabul and other Afghan cities lie on the conscience of the extremists in the opposition ranks who are striving to wreck the cause of national reconciliation and impose their will by means of terror, starvation, and blockade.

For example, toward the end of November 1988, extremists captured and robbed a caravan with goods for the inhabitants of Panjshir district, shipped under UN auspices within the framework of the program for rendering humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan. UN representative Luis Barbo [name as transliterated], who was accompanying the shipment, was captured in the process. He was released soon afterward, but the shipment was lost.

Nor is it a secret that opposition groups that have found refuge in Pakistan, or rather their gang leaders, resort to seizing UN material assistance shipped through that country for their personal enrichment. Evidence of the cynicism with which they treat the humanitarian aid is provided by news reports from regions of Afghanistan under the opposition's control, where bags containing flour are used to build emplacement breastworks.

It is not surprising that many refugees from Afghanistan are in no hurry to leave Pakistan and return home. What awaits them there, under conditions in which armed extremists use even UN humanitarian aid to serve their own purposes?

A few days ago, representatives of the Afghan armed opposition based in Pakistan met with the Aga Khan, UN coordinator for aid to Afghanistan, and demanded that all aid be funneled through opposition groups and organizations. Otherwise, they threatened, airports and bases in the country used for aid deliveries via other channels would be attacked and shelled.

What this means in reality is that those members of the opposition who made this statement would like to use even the humanitarian problem of aid to Afghanistan as an instrument for pursuing their own selfish and mercenary schemes and designs. After all, the UN General Assembly resolution adopted 3 November 1988 by consensus (with no votes against) contains an appeal to all states to make the appropriate financial and material resources available to the special coordinator for rendering assistance within the UN framework for the purpose of ensuring swift repatriation and resettlement of Afghan refugees and for the country's restoration.

This is the issue. The UN resolution makes absolutely no mention of any privileges, let alone monopoly to be enjoyed by various groups and organizations in Afghanistan as regards aid shipments and their distribution. On the contrary, it speaks about the need for an inter-Afghan dialogue for the creation of a broad-based government.

No matter what happens with the organization of such a dialogue, the needs of the Afghan masses must be urgently met. Any delay is impermissible in this regard. Sometimes it is not days but just a few hours that can determine whether a child will live or not! U.S. journalist R. Weintraub reported in a recent dispatch from Kabul that now there over 30,000 children in Kabul in danger of contracting serious diseases or even dying as a result of malnutrition.

This is why our country took emergency measures to ship food and other aid to Kabul and other cities.

Our country is prepared to continue rendering comprehensive assistance to Afghanistan, including via the United Nations and using the services of UN coordinator Aga Khan. There is no need to explain that this is a humanitarian problem in the face of which all the rest, everything connected with political calculations, should recede into the background. First and foremost it is necessary to feed people and supply them with all they need. Surely this is obvious?

Apparently not to everyone in the West. News reports from Washington and London call for caution. State Department Spokesman Redman, touching on the question of UN-channeled aid to Afghanistan, claimed that it must be channeled mainly to the opposition forces. Meanwhile, they are the ones who are responsible for the blockade that is dooming the mass of the country's population to privation, hunger, and epidemic. Apparently people in Washington would like to "reward" the gang leaders of these groups for their inhuman tactics!

Recently the news broke in London of the negative response of official British circles to the idea of UN aid being shipped to Kabul. In Parliament a sharp exchange of opinions took place on this subject. Tory members expressed solidarity with such a formulation of the question. Labour members condemned the stance as cynical.

Indeed, there cannot be and must not be any "selectivity" in this matter. Human needs, especially in light of the emerging prospects for terminating the fratricidal conflict, cannot and must not be an object of blackmail or shameful political games. Primacy here must be given to the norms of humanity. This is the premise from which the Soviet Union proceeds in the matter of aid to Afghanistan.

In an interview given at the end of last November, Aga Khan, UN coordinator for the programs of humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, pointed out the great importance of Soviet aid since, as he declared, it is placed directly at the disposal of the organ for coordinating such aid, and UN representatives will be able to distribute it among the needy in all of the country's provinces without exception.

The withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan means that, as far as we are concerned, the practical task of aid deliveries is becoming not easier but more complex, especially in view of the aforementioned threats from extremists. Meanwhile, even though there was a concentration of aid shipments for Afghanistan in Termez, on the border with Afghanistan, back in mid-November, the situation now is neither easier not better. There is a lot of freight. It is badly needed by hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan. It must be delivered to its destination without any further delay. Blockading these shipments, let alone using weapons against them, means taking on the most burdensome responsibility, primarily before the Afghan people themselves.

Kabul Rejects Confederation With Pakistan

LD0902184889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

["Statement" by Sayyed Mohammad Gulabzoy, Afghan ambassador to the USSR, to journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center in Moscow on 9 February; in Dari with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, ladies and gentlemen:

I want to officially reject the Pakistan president's claim about setting up a confederation between Afghanistan and Pakistan. We regard this as a betrayal, and protest it.

Despite honest endeavors and attempts by the Afghan and Soviet side, the other participants in the Geneva accords—the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States—are unfortunately not only failing to fulfill their commitments, but are, on the contrary, increasing their supplies of arms and aid to the opposition. They want the bloodshed and war to continue in Afghanistan to intensify tension in the region. These attempts show quite clearly that these forces not only do not want to fulfill the Geneva accords, but also do not want the Soviet forces to leave Afghanistan and return home. Otherwise, how can one explain the supply of arms and munitions by the United States through Pakistani territory and the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan?

Esteemed journalists, despite the continuing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, despite the attempts to continue the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, and despite the repeated statements by the opposition that they will continue the war to a victorious finish, the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan believes that there is no alternative to the policy of national reconciliation and that we can solve Afghanistan's problems and end the bloodshed in Afghanistan only by means of negotiations and dialogue, only by political means. Those who consider themselves friends of the Afghan people and who believe that the Afghan people should be happy and live in peace must understand that these slogans calling for a continuation of the war are worthless, and that those wishing to fight to a victorious finish will receive a worthy rebuff from the Afghan people. All the opposition and all the extremists are well aware that we have sufficient strength. The Armed Forces of Afghanistan are able to defend their honor and the territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. We will allow no one to prevent us from building a peaceful life in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Speech, Rebel Terrorism Plans Noted

LD0402212689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Afghan President Najibullah has called on the commanders of armed opposition groups to cease fire and sit down at the negotiating table. In a televised address to his compatriots he again stressed that the path to a real settlement lies only through the setting up of a coalition government on a broad basis. Meanwhile, the rebels continue to attack convoys carrying foodstuffs and fuel. Plans by the opposition to set up terrorist groups in the capital, Kabul, have been uncovered.

Rocket Explodes Outside Soviet Beirut Embassy

LD1002071289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0649 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, 10 Feb (TASS)—A rocket was fired at the USSR Beirut Embassy last night by unknown persons. Having exploded on the sidewalk it, fortunately, did not result in casualties or material damage.

Shevardnadze To Tour Gulf, Mideast From 16 Feb

LD1002084289 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0710 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 10 (TANJUG)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will soon take a tour of Gulf and Middle East countries.

According to unofficial reports, the tour will take in Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, Damascus and Tehran.

Shevardnadze's mission, which is due to begin on February 16, will focus on resolving the Palestinian problem and on the Iran-Iraq peace talks and the Afghan question.

Sources close to Palestinian circles in Iraq claim that Shevardnadze will meet with leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat during the tour.

'Dangers' of Keeping Mideast Status Quo Viewed

PM0902142189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by IZVESTIYA political observer Konstantin Geyvandov under the "Events: Essence and Opinions" rubric: "Near East: Dangers of the Status Quo"]

[Text] The overwhelming majority of the letters I receive from readers are full of alarm over the Arab-Israeli conflict that has lasted for decades in the Near East. They are alarmed particularly because of the obstacles that crop up whenever peace talks are organized, at a time when this process has already gotten under way in recent years in other "hotspots." In their letters readers suggest various ways of overcoming the current difficulties. One, for instance, wrote recently that in his opinion, it will not be possible to convene an international conference on the Near East because it is being approached in an "unscientific" manner. This reader sees a "flaw" in the fact that the PLO is supposedly seen as the partner in the peace talks whereas the Palestinians should be represented by their state's government.

Oh, if only this procedural "trifle" were in fact the stumbling block! I had to tell my correspondent that although he is correct in principle and the Palestinians will, obviously, be represented by the provisional government of the state that was proclaimed on 15 November last year when agreement is reached on convening an international conference on the Near East, at present I don't think that this is today's primary task. The main thing now comes down to the need to get all interested parties to agree to sit down at the negotiating table and initiate the process of an all-embracing, just, and lasting Near East settlement. Moreover, a provisional Palestinian Government does exist even now. As is well known, the November decision of the Palestine National Council [PNC] session conferred these functions on the PLO Executive Committee.

I think that on the whole this session's decisions made a radical breakthrough in the world public attitude toward the Near East settlement problem. At any rate, realization of the need to bring this chronic conflict into the mainstream of political decisions is evidently becoming all-encompassing. West European states are now also actively joining socialist countries and members of the Nonaligned Movement in the process of organizing peace talks. Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has, in particular, recently held talks in Madrid with the Spanish, French, and Greek foreign ministers, whom the EEC Council of Ministers has instructed to study the opportunities for peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the opinion of King Husayn of Jordan, serious action will begin in 2 months to settle the Palestinian problem, which is the essence of the Near East crisis. He believes that this will occur when the new U.S. Administration's policy on the Near East is determined. Moreover, the Jordanian monarch now sees positive changes on this score even within Israel, and he is better informed on this question than many other people.

Certainly, every time there is a change of U.S. Administration, there is hope of a new policy and fresh approaches in the Near East, especially with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "This hope," the journal MIDDLE EAST noted in its January issue, admittedly "rarely bears fruit. But after the barren years of the Reagan administration, many people have begun to sense that President George Bush cannot dare follow the example of his predecessor, who was so ineffectual on the Palestinian problem." In a broader context, the journal notes that, considering Soviet foreign policy's new vitality, regional problems cannot be viewed through the prism of East-West confrontation.

I cannot but agree with these assessments in MIDDLE EAST, with one small exception: I think it would be incorrect or excessively categorical to assert today that "the Reagan years were barren." To give it its due, the last U.S. Administration did, nonetheless, find the courage to begin dialogue with the PLO literally in the last month of its term in office. So the new White House team has gotten the chance not to sow its Near East course on barren ground.

Speaking of the need to reappraise the U.S. administration's values, observers usually refer to facts prompting it to do so, such as the proclamation of the Palestinian state, the PLO's diplomatic steps, the UN peace initiatives, and Israel's stubborn refusal to leave the occupied territories. I am, of course, referring to a constructive reappraisal. There is no shortage of arguments in favor of a new approach. There is, for instance, the argument that U.S. interest simply won't allow it to continue to swim against the tide, pending a more favorable situation; and there is the fact that the Near East conflict may pose a potential threat to the improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations and that no other country has such a lever of pressure on intractable Israel as has the United States.

In my opinion, the most important thing is the fact that attempts to continue to preserve the status quo in the region contain unforeseeable dangers. Thus, compared to the status quo of 6-7 years ago, the Arab-Israeli conflict has considerably broadened. It now also includes Lebanon. Tel Aviv occupies a broad belt of that country's territory in the south and Israeli aircraft bomb Lebanese cities and villages several dozen times a year. The Israeli leadership is stopping at nothing in its attempt to suppress the uprising on the occupied Palestinian territories, although, according to REUTER, the general staff also warns: "It looks as though the uprising will continue indefinitely with approximately the same intensity and Israeli soldiers are already fed up with these events."

It is well known that any action ultimately generates a counteraction. One cannot doubt that the arms race gathering momentum in the Near East is the perilous precursor of this counteraction. Moreover, this arms race assumes an increasingly sinister character with every spiral. On the one hand, specialists talk confidently about Israel's possession of nuclear weapons or the potential to create them. On the other, it seems that the process of providing Israel with chemical weapons is under way and there is evidence that chemical weapons have already begun to be employed. People are talking about biological weapon developments. Intermediate-range missiles in the region are a fait accompli and people claim that ballistic missiles are in the pipeline.

How can one put an end to this madness and escape from this vicious cycle? I do not doubt that an all-embracing Near East settlement safeguarded by the most reliable international guarantees should provide the answer to this question. Nor, within its framework, should we forget to agree on a program for the demilitarization of the region.

Iran Celebrates Revolution's 10th Anniversary

'Positive Changes' in USSR Ties

LD0902174189 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—By TASS commentator Oleg Zuenko:

The Islamic Republic of Iran is celebrating its national holiday—revolution day. The Iranian revolution culminated in victory ten years ago. It put an end to the monarchy which had ruled the country for 2,500 years. The religious-political leadership, headed by Imam Khomeyni, did away with several unequal agreements which the West had foisted upon the country during the shah's reign.

Iran has traversed a difficult road during the ten post-revolution years. The internal political processes were sometimes contradictory. Great damage was inflicted upon the country by the 8-year war with Iraq, which took a toll of more than one million lives on both sides. In the summer of 1988 the Iranian leadership announced its recognition of the UN Security Council Resolution 598, calling for a ceasefire. A corresponding agreement came into force on August 20th. The direct Iranian-Iraqi negotiations, started some days later under the aegis of the UN Security General, were deadlocked shortly afterwards due to acute contradictions. However, vigorous UN actions have given ground for hope that they would be eventually resumed.

Positive changes have appeared of late in Soviet-Iranian relations. The visit to the USSR early this January of the Iranian delegation led by Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli, personal envoy of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, marked an important stage in their development. During his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, Javadi-Amoli conveyed to him a personal message from Imam Khomeyni and noted the Iranian leadership's interest in developing goodneighbourly relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet side stressed the right of every nation to decide its own destiny. It was noted that the Soviet people respected the option made by the Iranians. Now that Iran is embarking upon a peaceful period, favourable opportunities are opening up for a political dialogue, for an exchange of views on questions of Soviet-Iranian relations and on problems of world politics.

Revolution, Gulf War Viewed

NC0902110489 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Iranian nation is marking the 10th anniversary of the antimonarchical revolution. The victory of the Iranian nation's uprising in February 1979 opened a new page in the history of the Soviet Union's southern neighbor and in the history of Soviet-Iranian relations.

On the occasion of this anniversary, our correspondent interviewed Semyon Agayev, Soviet scholar and historian, who has produced a number of books and much research material on the Iranian revolution that have been widely received in the Soviet Union and abroad.

Discussions were held on the course of the revolution in Iran. We invite you to listen to this interview.

Our correspondent asked: The post-revolutionary growth of Iran is assessed differently by different international political, social, and scientific circles. The West even takes the view that the revolution has not been to the benefit of the Iranian nation. What is your opinion on this?

Semyon Ageyev said: A revolution is undoubtedly a basic turnabout in the destiny of a nation. However, the issue is that this basic turnabout is not immediately manifested during the revolution itself, but later on. Basically speaking, after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in our country, hunger, destruction, and unstable government existed. We also say now that our revolution did not yield everything that we expected it to yield. In relation to this, and at this juncture, it is difficult to say whether the view that the revolution has not been to the benefit of the Iranian nation is correct. The Iranian revolution was a national revolution in which the vast masses and basically all the citizens of Iran's cities participated. In this struggle the Iranians rose up for social justice, fundamental reforms in all aspects of social and political life, and the elimination of imperialist influence on the economy, policy, and culture. The democratic leftist forces truly represented the interests of the masses. It was under the pressure of these forces that the Bazargan government, which came to power immediately after the victory of the revolution, undertook a series of progressive social and economic reforms and took positive steps on the international scene. However, one should also recall that while the Tudeh Party members, the Fedayeen, and mojahedin were struggling against the monarchical forces, the clerics seized power for themselves. The extremist clerical circles, in turn, persecuted the democratic leftist forces in order to remove them from the political scene. The clergymen, who expressed the interests of the petty and middle bourgeoisie of merchants, directed their subsequent efforts at ensuring the interests of this sector. Thus, an assessment of the Iranian revolution cannot be made from one point of view alone.

Our correspondent asked: The 10th anniversary of the revolution is being held for the first time under conditions of peace. Did the war have a role in diverting the revolution from its objectives and ideas?

Semyon Ageyev said: I think the issue should be stated in another way here. It is not the war that played a role in diverting the revolution from its objectives and ideas. On the contrary, it was the wish of certain circles in Iran to divert the revolution from its objectives and ideas that led to the war. These circles wanted to make the Iranians believe that some unforeseen complications in foreign policy had apparently taken place, justifying them in refraining from implementing social-economic reforms to the benefit of the vast masses.

Our correspondent said: But Tehran blames Baghdad fully for the war.

Agayev said: Yes. On 22 September 1980 the Iraqi Army entered Iranian territory. Iraq, too, makes its claims as far as the commencement of the war is concerned. Iraq says the war started on 4 September of the same year when Iranian long-range artillery shelled Iraqi border areas. If we want to make reality the criterion for our judgement, then we can see that the extreme tension in the two countries' relations started in April and May 1980. At that time the Iranian regime took no measures to prevent the calamitous process. Moreover, calls were heard from Tehran for the overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and the export of the Islamic revolution to Iraq. Hostile demonstrations took place in front of the Iraqi Embassy. In short, Iraq launched the attack on Iranian territory. But one should not forget Iran's provocative role either.

Our correspondent asked: Is it possible, in peacetime conditions, to implement even part of those duties that were propounded at the onset of the revolution?

Agayev said: Peacetime conditions always ensure that social, economic, and democratic duties are implemented. It is not without reason that the Soviet Union now considers that the first duty in its policy is to ensure conditions of peace and social reconstruction. It is only under such conditions that constructive programs can be implemented. Under the current circumstances, from a theoretical point of view, the possibility of implementing the duties propounded by the Iranian revolution does exist. However, the entire issue is: Is the regime prepared to work for the interests of the masses, and is it capable of stopping anti-democratic acts? Yes, the Iranian regime must now begin postwar reconstruction. Separate humanitarian and limited general amnesty steps are being taken. However, this does not yet mean that the regime is moving toward the fulfillment of the Iranian revolution's duties, because warmongering ambitions continue to exist, as they did in the past. Strong suppressive measures against patriotic forces are being carried out. Meanwhile, democratic demands from below are growing and these compel the regime to resort to maneuvers. I will not forecast the possible course of events. However, I would only like to emphasize that the Iranians should determine their destiny themselves, without intervention from abroad. As for the Soviet Union, we should say that the Soviet Union respects the Iranian nation's choice; and this was pointed out once again by Mikahil Gorbachev in his meeting with Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli, special representative of Ayatollah Khomeyni, Iran's political and religious leader.

Dear listeners: You have been listening to an interview granted to the correspondent of Radio Peace and Progress by Mr Semyon Agayev, Soviet scholar and historian.

Possible Improvement in Iran-U.S. Ties Viewed

NC0302160389 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Some days ago, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani called on the Bush government to begin implementing a policy of goodwill regarding Iran. It was suggested that this policy take the form of either awarding token compensation for damages to the families of those who were aboard the Iranian passenger airliner downed by a U.S. naval warship last summer, or of releasing at least part of Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks. (Andrey Krasnov), Soviet expert on Middle East affairs, writes the following:

It appears that Larijani's utterances may prove an important step in improving U.S.-Iranian ties. However, the question arises on to what extent such a prospect is realistic. Are Tehran and Washington ready for constructive talks and a dialogue? There are various indications that such talks are possible. On 3 November 1988, the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper stated that proposals for resuming political ties with the United States, given specific and stipulated conditions, should be agreed upon. In addition, in the past months the intensity of verbal warfare with the United States has either diminished in Iranian publications or vanished completely.

The present indications are that the Iranian Government has decided to (?give up) its policy of (?successful) isolation on the international scene. Constructive tendencies are gradually surfacing in this regard. On 25 June last year, Iran restored relations with France, and on 4 December last year it reestablished diplomatic ties with Great Britain. In January 1989, Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli visited the Soviet Union and conveyed Imam Khomeyeni's personal message to Gorbachev and held talks with him. Recently Iran has forged extensive commercial relations with Italy, the FRG, Canada, and Japan.

In view of the above, the resuscitation of Tehran-Washington ties seems to be a completely logical step and would benefit both sides. The improvement of Iran-U.S. ties would assist in improving the international atmosphere. In addition, attaining a mutual agreement between the two countries is of extreme importance for establishing peace in the Persian Gulf. In this case, the United States would not have any excuse to maintain its warships in this region. In addition, the two countries desire improved commerical ties. We know that in the past the economic ties between Iran and the United States were strong. For example, U.S. exports to Iran before the revolution amounted to $3,424,000,000. Iran sold $3 billion worth of goods to the United States, 95 percent of which comprised oil and oil products.

It might be added that the economic ties between the two countries during the Shah's regime benefited the United States in general. In most cases, they did not resemble cooperation between equal partners. Now the situation has undergone a change. If ties between Iran and the United States were to be resumed on the basis of mutual respect and equal rights, commerical ties could benefit both. At present it is difficult to predict how the trend of normalizing ties between Iran and the United States will occur. However, the people of both countries should have the boldness to look toward the future instead of remaining mired in the past.

Continuing 'Tension' in Iran-Iraq Ties Viewed

NC0802134489 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[(Andrey Asiyev) commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: On 8 February the UN Security Council is to discuss the renewal of the UN military observers mission monitoring the Iran-Iraq cease-fire. We invite you to listen to a commentary by our commentator, Andrey Asiyev:

We can say now that the UN Security Council will decide to extend the activities of the UN team of observers. Experience has shown that these observers are competently carrying out their duties, and that they have repeatedly helped to overcome misunderstandings between two former enemies.

Meanwhile, now that the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva are at an impasse, the establishment of a ceasefire is the only noticeable result to emerge from the peace process that has started in the Persian Gulf. For the sake of ensuring the interests of the world, the United Nations must preserve this process, and the UN military observers greatly help in this respect.

In view of the above, the attention of analysts is now centered more on the participation of the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq at the UN Security Council debates rather than on the debates themselves. During their stay in New York, the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq will also meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who is trying to extricate the Iran-Iraq Geneva talks from their impasse.

Frankly speaking, there are not many now who expect any perceptible progress to be achieved during the New York meetings on the Iran-Iraq talks. For example, before leaving for New York Iranian Foreign Minister Mr Velayati did not express optimism about this. Apparently the two sides continue to maintain their former stands. Iran supports an unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which stipulates the withdrawal of the two sides' forces to the pre-war borders. Iraq, in turn, demands that free navigation in the Persian Gulf be ensured and that the Shatt al-'Arab be dredged immediately.

Of course, it is not correct for us to say that no positive signs can be seen now in Iran-Iraq relations. For example, as a gesture of goodwill, Iraq released 255 Iranian POW's and allowed Iranian civilian planes to use its airspace for flights to Europe. And, finally, Iraq has agreed to participate in the special joint commission for consolidating the ceasefire between the two countries.

Iran, in turn, is no longer inspecting ships in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, as reported in UN circles, both Iran and Iraq are interested in cooperating with UN representatives for the sake of making progress toward a lasting peace in the region.

An assessment of the current developments makes one conclude that the time has now come for both Iran and Iraq to take serious steps toward each other because, otherwise, the current situation of a no-war peace in their relations may weaken. Meanwhile, it must be pointed out that even the slightest exacerbation of tension will only benefit those countries that exploit instability in the Persian Gulf to strengthen their naval presence.

History shows that progress in any negotiations can be achieved only by mutual concessions. However, both Tehran and Baghdad are not yet in a hurry to declare their readiness to make concessions.

Our commentator concludes: However, I think that the tension cannot continue forever. Sooner or later, a peace pact will have to be signed, and the sooner the better for all the interested parties. Meanwhile, it should be stated that it is not only the peoples of Iran and Iraq, but their neighbors and the world as well who want this.

Gorbachev Thanks YAR President for Armenia Aid

JN1002071389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev expressing the thanks of the Soviet people and leadership to our country's leadership and people for standing alongside the Soviet people during the terrible earthquake catastrophe that afflicted the Armenian SSR. In his message, the Soviet president lauded our country's aid, which helped ease the suffering of thousands of the earthquake's victims.

PDRY Deputy Premier Cited on USSR Ties

PM0902144189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Marking Anniversary"]

[Text] Aden, 8 Feb —The 20th anniversary of the signing of the first agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the PDRY and the Soviet Union is being widely marked in Democratic Yemen.

We regard this agreement as an important milestone in the development of mutually beneficial relations between the two countries, S.A.B. bin Husaynun, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals of the PDRY, said in conversation with our TASS correspondent. Very considerable results have been achieved in developing the national economy by joint efforts during these years. Our cooperation with the Soviet Union is now being carried out in the most diverse spheres, including the power industry, mineral prospecting and mining, fishing, health care, and cadre training. We express gratitude for this help, the minister stressed, and also see prospects for the further deepening of ties with the USSR and problems we shall have to work to resolve.

A session of the republic's Council of Ministers was held here on the occasion of the anniversay. In a resolution the PDRY Government rated highly the development of relations with the Soviet Union and pointed out the selfless and mutually beneficial character of Soviet-Yemeni trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

CPSU Greets PDRY Secretary General on Birthday

LD0902215789 Moscow TASS in English 2032 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee has congratulated 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee, on his 50th birthday.

Al-Bid's commitment to the ideals of progress and independence has earned him immense prestige in the country and in the party, the CPSU greeting said.

The CPSU Central Committee praised the Yemen Socialist Party for developing close ties with the CPSU, and promoting friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Karpov Meets Indian Counterpart in New Delhi

LD0902141689 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi February 9 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov held consultations with his Indian opposite number M. Dubey here on February 8 and 9, covering a wide range of issues, including cooperation to promote Soviet and Indian initiatives for greater international security.

On February 9 Karpov held meetings and conversations with K. Natwar Singh, Indian minister of state for external affairs, and K.P.Sh. Menon, first deputy minister for external affairs.

Biryukova, Indian Envoy Discuss Trade

LD0802215289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1731 Gmt 8 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—Aleksandra Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received Triloki Nath Kaul, India's ambassador to the USSR, at his request. During the conversation, which passed off in a warm and friendly atmosphere, questions of the further deepening of Soviet-Indian trade and economic cooperation, including the production of consumer goods, were discussed.

Lukyanov Receives New Moroccan Envoy

LD0902223289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] On 9 February, Rafik Haddaoui, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco, presented his credentials in the Kremlin to Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Soviet-Moroccan relations and international and regional problems were discussed in a friendly conversation.

Sub-Saharan Africa

UN Envoy, Perez de Cuellar Discuss Namibia

LD0302094789 Moscows TASS in English 0920 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] New York February 3 TASS—United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met the Soviet Union's permanent representative at the United Nations Aleksandr Belonogov on Thursday. The issues they discussed included the situation in Namibia which will soon be come independent.

Answering journalists' questions after the meeting the Soviet representative said that there has been a delay in passing the Security Council resolution which will give the green light to the U.N. operation in Namibia. This was caused mainly by the desire of the interested parties such as the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and the "Frontline" States to thoroughly study the U.N. secretary-general's report on the plans and clear up any ambiguous points.

Perez de Cuellar is taking the views of all interested parties into consideration, in the run-up to the implementation of the Security Council resolution which restricts the size of U.N. supevisory forces.

It is expected that some African countries will soon ask the secretary-general to append clarifications to the report. The Soviet Union understands their position.

The main question concerns the size of the United Nations military contingent in Namibia. While trying to minimise the costs of the U.N. mission, the secretary-general came to the conclusion that they can succeed with less numerous military staff than was proposed ten years ago when the United Nations discussed their plan on Namibia. But if he accepts that the operation can't be a success with only a limited military contingent, it will be possible to increase its size only with the Security Council's agreement.

The African countries's representatives worry that, in the event of such a request, one of the Security Council members may veto the proposal. They would like to get agreement from the Security Council on the possible request of the U.N. secretary-general for extra forces earlier, during the debate in the United Nations General Assembly.

The Soviet Union understands this request, stressed the Soviet representative. This would assure the African countries of the effectiveness of the future U.N. operation in Namibia. The most important thing is to create a situation in Namibia to facilitate the holding of free elections, excluding any pressure from South Africa or those who support its interests.

Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meet in Harare

LD0602191189 Moscow TASS in English 1834 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Harare February 6 TASS—The signing late last year of an agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa on the settlement in South-Western Africa was met with hope and optimism by all nations. The "Frontline" States, however, are still suspicious of true intentions of South Africa's regime. This feeling is based on their experience and a policy of destabilisation pursued by the Pretoria regime in the region, President Robert Mugabe said at the opening here on Monday of the third meeting of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Committee for Southern Africa.

He pointed out that at a crucial period of Namibia's transition to independence the U.N. should take upon itself full responsibility for ensuring free and just elections there. No minor considerations should influence this process. Modifications of Resolution 435 of the U.N. Security Council will only weaken its role and enable Pretoria to manipulate the elections.

Apartheid continues to be the central problem. Despite changes for the better in Angola and Namibia, it still poses a real threat to all the neighbouring countries. Nothing but the complete dismantling of this criminal system will permit the ensurance of stability in southern Africa, Mugabe said. This is why the world community should assume a serious, courageous and realistic stand with regard to the Pretoria regime, with comprehensive and mandatory sanctions as its component parts. Only this collective approach can force the regime to start talks with true representatives of the oppressed masses of the country.

The Zimbabwean leader said that the meeting was taking place against the background of the developments promoting the settlement of international and regional conflicts by means of a peaceful dialogue. This became possible as a result of a "thaw" in relations between the superpowers which is already bringing favourable results in southern Africa and other regions. While we welcome this process, we are aware that much remains to be done for a final elimination of all hotbeds of tension and conflicts throughout the world, Mugabe said.

During the sessions of the committee foreign ministers of eight Commonwealth member states will discuss questions connected with sanctions against South Africa, especially concerning arms deliveries, the rendering of assistance and the ensuring of security of "Frontline" countries and with countering racist propaganda. The meeting agenda includes the discussion of the fulfilment of the U.N. plan on Namibia.

ANC Spokesman Outlines Position on Violence

MB0802063489 Moscow in English to Southern Africa 1900 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] After the tripartite agreement was signed, the idea of settling peacefully the problems that face South Africa itself seems feasible. Even the South African foreign minister, Roelof Botha, has hinted at an idea of this kind in an interview with the American weekly, NEWSWEEK. He saw as an obstacle the position held by the African National Congress, claiming the ANC refuses to give up violence. Is the ANC violence-minded indeed? Here is an opinion from the national chairman of the South African Communist Party and member of the ANC leadership, Dan Tlume.

[Begin Tlume recording] Recently, the national executive committee of the ANC has put out constitutional guidelines for an in depth discussion and proposals by our people inside and outside the country. These guidelines have provoked a lively debate and have facilitated the process of forming a national political consensus on the type of South Africa our people envisage. Indeed, the Freedom Charter is today attracting more and more (?support) towards our political thinking. Due to the nature of our conflict situation, the working class, in particular the black workers, form the backbone of our national democratic revolution. For them, there is no Chinese wall between the political and economic struggles of the masses. They are in actual struggle, setting the pace for the rest of our fighting forces. In the process, our links, as a (?well-backed) movements, with the masses have become stronger and deeper.

The strategy of the enemy to portray us as a Soviet-inspired terrorist group without any roots among the people has collapsed. What is of even more importance is the fact that even those forces that do not [words indistinct] embrace our policy, programs, strategy, and tactics have gradually come to the realization that the ANC occupies a vital role in the solution of the South African crisis, whether this is through a revolutionary struggle or a negotiated peaceful settlement. We do not see the two matters of approach as mutually exclusive from each other. In the final analysis, the conflict realities and the situation will dictate the way out. We have repeatedly explained our position on the so-called negotiations with the facists. We have always accepted the principle of a peaceful negotiated settlement. [end recording]

Thus, we can see that neither th ANC nor the South African Communist Party, as Dan Tlume made plain, rejects the idea of solving the conflict peacefully, no matter what Foreign Minister Roelof Botha may say in interviews. It is up to the South African Government to act.

Gorbachev Thanks Tutu for Armenian Condolences

MB1002100489 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0958 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Cape Town Feb 10 SAPA—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday sent Archbishop Desmond Tutu a telegram—in Russian. However, it was thoughtfully "unofficially translated" by the Russian postal service so that the receiver at Bischopscourt could understand it. The telegram was a response to one sent by the archbishop in December to express his "deep distress" at the news of the Armenian earthquake. A spokesman for the archbishop said he was "very pleased" at receiving the message.

In Archbishop Tutu's telegram, he said that the Soviet leader should be assured of his prayers and sympathy while the authorities undertook the enormous task of saving the injured and providing essential services to the victims.

Mr Gorbachev's reply read: "I am sincerely grateful for the expression of deep sorrow and condolences.

"The unanimous wave of solidarity caused in the hearts of people by the tragedy of the Armenian people demonstrates that in this world we are one family."

Somali Deputy Prime Minister Meets Press

LD0402135389 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1132 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 4 Feb (TASS)—The leadership of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] will continue to abide by the principles of the peaceful settlement of all political disputes arising not only in the area of the Horn of Africa, but also between other African countries, said Ahmed Mohamed Farrah, the special representative of Somali president and a deputy prime minister of the Republic. He addressed Soviet and foreign journalists at a press conference in Moscow today.

The Republic's leadership supports the reaching of an agreement between the USSR and the United States on reducing a whole class of offensive nuclear weapons, Ahmed Mohamed Farrah stressed. "It was with particular satisfaction that we heard of the USSR decision to make unilateral cuts in the Soviet Armed Forces in Europe," he said.

Dealing with matters concerning the internal situation in Somalia, Ahmed Mohamed Farrah noted that the leadership of the country had come forward with a number of initiatives aimed at the comprehensive reform of all aspects of life in the Republic. The presidential representative said that decentralization of the main branches of the national economy in order to create a situation of healthy competition and rivalry between individual producers was the principal thrust of attempts to revive the economy. In northern provinces of the country, which have suffered as a result of military operations, it is intended to rebuild ruined houses, restore normal electricity and water supplies, and also to organize essential medical services in the next few years.

Replying to questions from journalists, the SDR deputy prime minister noted that relations between Somalia and Ethiopia were gradually returning to normal. "We are neighbors," he said. "Our countries have much in common, and this aplies both to the present and to the past.

That is why we will be strengthening peaceful relations with Ethiopia. All existing disputes between our countries and those that could arise in the future ought to be resolved peacefully."

Ahmed Mohamed Farrah leave for the GDR tomorrow.

Official Reviews Guinean Minister's Visit

LD0802140789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0900 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (TASS)—A USSR Foreign Ministry representative said today in an interview with a TASS correspondent that the USSR regards with optimism the prospects for the development of political and economic dialogue between Moscow and Conakry. Summing up the results of the visit to the USSR by Edouard Benjamin, minister of plan and international cooperation of the Republic of Guinea, which has now ended, he stressed that Soviet-Guinean relations have a history of over 30 years, and a fully stable mechanism of political and economic cooperation has taken shape between the countries.

Economic contacts between the USSR and Guinea occupy a leading position in the USSR's relations with the states of the west African region. The political and socioeconomic restructuring in the Soviet Union and the policy of national renewal pursued in recent years by the Government of Guinea have revealed the urgent need to be more precisely defined in mutual approaches to cooperation under the new conditions of the world today. The visit by the Guinean statesman was chiefly devoted to discussion of this set of problems.

The main areas of economic, trade, and scientific and technological ties between the two countries are the bauxite-extracting industry, automobile equipment, agriculture, medicine, oceanography, and the training of Guinean specialists in the USSR.

Maslyukov Meets Minister

LD0302224689 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Maslyukov had a meeting today with Edouard Benjamin, minister of planning and international cooperation of the Republic of Guinea. An exchange of opinions took place on issues relating to the development of mutually beneficial economic relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Guinea.

East Europe

Pozsgay Statement on 1956 Events 'Unexpected'

LD0902223889 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; Ye. Shirokov report over video]

[Excerpts] Over the last few days before the MSZMP Central Committee Plenum, scheduled for 10 February, public attention has been predominantly focused on the situation that has emerged following a Hungarian radio interview with Imre Pozsgay, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and Hungarian minister of state. Citing research being carried out by a Central Committee subcommission on historical (?questions), he described the events which took place in Hungary in 1956 as a popular uprising.

This statement was unexpected. Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the MSZMP; Miklos Nemeth, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo, and other leaders came out with well-argued objections, both against such an interpretation of historical facts, and against such far-reaching conclusions being made public by one person without discussion by the Central Committee. Here is one characteristic opinion, put forward in MAGYAR HIRLAP by members of the party organization of Budapest's 12th district: The aspirations of the masses should not be confused with the actions of counterrevolutionaries mixed up in the white terror. [passage omitted]

People are worried that the present political situation—the differences or disagreements of opinion in the leadership—is being superimposed on increasing social tension. Not all the problems in the Hungarian economy and society as a whole can be resolved by raising prices, cutting jobs, or imposing restrictions on consumption. This idea was put forward at a mass meeting held in the capital in support of the position of the National Council of Trade Unions on social issues. Sandor Nagy, general secretary of the council, stressed in his speech that the trade unions intend to resolutely advocate a reduction of material burdens on the working people.

Slyunkov, CSSR's Lenart Discuss Cooperation

PM1002143589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Topical Questions Discussed"]

[Text] J. Lenart, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, visited Moscow 7-9 February at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. He was received by N.N. Slyunkov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In a comradely and businesslike atmosphere, key questions of Soviet-Czechoslovak economic cooperation, topical problems of further improving the mechanism of socialist economic integration, and approaches to the formation single market for a socialist community countries were discussed.

The CPCZ Central Committee secretary visited the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanical Engineering and the Moscow "Mikromashina" plant. In conversations with scientists, workers, and engineers opportunities for expanding the scale and enhancing the efficiency of direct production and scientific and technical collaboration between Czechoslovak and Soviet enterprises and organizations were discussed.

On 9 February J. Lenart left for home. At the airport he was seen of by N.N. Slyunkov and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee. J. Rehorek, Czechoslovak ambassador to the USSR, was among those seeing him off.

USSR, GDR Confer on Plan Coordination

PM1002143189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
10 Feb 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Development of Cooperation"]

[Text] A meeting between Yu.S. Maslyukov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, and G. Schuerer, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Commission, was held on 9 February.

Progress in work to coordinate the USSR and GDR state plans for 1991-1995 was examined in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere, and an outline plan for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries for the period through the year 2000 was signed. It will determine the program and substance of the coordinated development of the economy, science, and technology of both countries in the longer term.

The talks were attended by I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet side of the intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the USSR and the GDR.

Shuerer, Maslyukov on Agreement

LD1002000689 East Berlin Domestic Service
in German 2110 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Gerhard Shuerer, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and Yuriy Maslyukov, State Planning Commission chairman and USSR Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, today signed an outline for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the GDR and the USSR up to the year 2000. Our Moscow correspondent Klaus Juergen Fischer reports:

[Fischer] At the conference hall of the USSR State Planning Commission in Moscow's Marx Prospect, on the corner of Gorkiy Street, on a table—bedecked with the Soviet and GDR flags—lie the documents in German and Russian. Apart from Gerhard Schuerer and Yuriy Maslyukov, officials of the planning authorities of the two countries, of the GDR Council of Ministers, and Soviet and GDR correspondents attended the signing. [passage omitted]

After the signing, Yuriy Maslyukov and Gerhard Schuerer were asked their assessment of the 2 days of talks here in Moscow:

[Begin recording] [Maslyukov in Russian fading into German translation] Today we completed a good job of work. I will mention, first of all, the coordination of the coming 5-year plan. I was very pleased that Comrade Schuerer brought very constructive proposals on the supply of consumer goods and on the development of trade in engineering products, which we both urgently need.

The signing of the outline plan up to the year 2000 is very important. This lays down the basic guidelines for development in industry and the guidelines for specialization in cooperation and research and production. This document places our traditional cooperation in this sector on a new contractual basis, which will help to deepen cooperation.

[Schuerer] The document we signed here up to the year 2000 shows the basic direction of cooperation between the GDR and the USSR, particularly in relation to science and technology, [word indistinct] key technologies, important sectors. Our discussion on the coordination of our 1991-95 5-year plans serves the direct implementation of the eighth stage of this long-term document. Of course we are still at the outset of this task, and if we continue the coordination of the plans, we estimate that by the end of this year we will be in a position to conclude a document on the next 5-year plan period. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Honecker on SED Congress, Disarmament

PM0902151989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
9 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interview With E. Honecker"]

[Text] Berlin, 8 Feb—The SED, closely tied to the GDR people, will continue to steer a consistent course toward the country's socialist development, Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council, stated in an interview with the newspaper JUNGE WELT. Speaking about the 12th SED Congress scheduled for May 1990, he indicated that the GDR communists' supreme forum will discuss the main tasks for the 1990's during the further building of a developed socialist society in the country. We will thereby continue to implement the revolutionary program on German land. Our party's social strategy, which shows how the new questions should be successfully resolved, will determine the course of development, he stressed.

The GDR, E. Honecker said, is making its contribution to implementing the socialist countries' peace program. In the future we shall continue to promote with all our might the continuation of the process of disarmament in the interest of ensuring a peaceful future for mankind. Freeing the planet of nuclear weapons remains our aim. Beginning with the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the process of nuclear disarmament is strengthening our conviction that mankind's great dream can become a reality. After the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the creation in central Europe of zones free of nuclear weapons, as well as zones free of chemical weapons in Europe and other regions in the world, can and must be the start of this process. There is no doubt, the GDR leader stressed, that the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons also relates to this. Whether this will be successfully implemented naturally depends not only on our own will and efforts. It also depends on the development of the worldwide antiwar movement. The unilateral initiatives to reduce the armed forces and arms of the Soviet Union, the GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the CSSR are making a large contribution to this process.

NEW TIMES Interviews Walesa on Solidarity

LD0902111189 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The leader of the Polish trade union association Solidarity, Lech Walesa, has said that at meetings with the country's leadership he is trying to find a basis for national concord. Lech Walesa stressed in his first interview to a Soviet reporter, published by the NEW TIMES weekly, while seeking autonomy and independence of government, Solidarity does not seek to become government.

The interview touched upon Polish-Soviet relations. In Walesa's opinion, without the restructuring in the Soviet Union, the reforms in Poland would have less chance of success. He dismissed as false the talk that the Poles have some claims to the Russian people. The Poles, Walesa said, entertain a feeling of deep sympathy for the Soviet people. He said he dreams of visiting the Soviet Union to see with his own eyes what he had heard so much about.

Polish Roundtable Viewed as 'Good Start'

PM0802125389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Toporkov report: "Serious Talking at Roundtable"]

[Text] How to achieve national accord? That, surely, is the question at the center of attention at the roundtable meeting, which began its difficult task in Warsaw on February 6. It was serious, man's talk. But why manly?

Primarily because the people assembled in the Polish Council of Ministers Palace on Krakowskie Przedmiescie [main thoroughfare in central Warsaw] were distinguished least of all by sentimentality. They were seasoned political campaigners and representatives of social forces united at the moment by nothing less than a desire to promote the good of their fatherland. Quite recently some of the people now sitting at the roundtable were on opposite sides of the barricade. Suffice it to mention, on the one hand, the names of such opposition figures as L. Walesa, J. Kuron, Z. Bujak, and W. Frasyniuk and, on the other, C. Kiszczak, S. Ciosek, L. Miller, and other PZPR figures. Now their task is to find a common language so that the formula of service to the motherland and the people, a lofty formula but one not always understood in the same way, acquires tangible shape.

But the "man's talk" must also be understood in the literal sense: Among the 57 participants in the meeting only one woman was to be seen—Professor Anna Przeclawska of Warsaw University, a member of the Consultative Council of the Polish State Council chairman. Soon, however, Prof Anna showed that her own character was just as firm as the rest when she entered into a polemic with W. Sila-Nowicki, a lawyer who wanted to be the advocate of the extremist elements in Solidarity: They should also sit at the roundtable, he argued. The session did not extend the circle of its participants.

The roundtable has also caught the attention of the Polish and, indeed, the world public because for the first time it has brought face to face those people who previously were considered intransigent. But as General C. Kiszczak, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and initiator of the roundtable, noted when opening the session, the past years have taught us a lot. They have brought to the forefront the sense of responsibility for the country's fate and the future of the society, which is being built by joint efforts. In this matter rational compromise with those whose activity is constitutionally based is essential.

The speakers on the first day included L. Walesa, M. Kozakiewicz, J. Janowski, and a number of others. Attention here is drawn to the fact that there was no hard-line confrontation in the speeches heard in the palace. Hence the initial evaluations of the event by the session participants themselves repeated most often the words "hope," "opportunities," and "optimism." It is expected that intense debates are still to come in the meetings on specific problems and themes.

Three working groups have been formed (on questions of the national economy and social policy, trade union pluralism, and political reforms). The groups will work until mid-March, when plenary sessions will resume at the roundtable.

The Polish press is providing extensive coverage of the roundtable's work and publishing all its speeches. "A good start," TRYBUNA LUDU writes today. "The discussion at the roundtable is essentially the act of creating the future Poland," ZYCIE WARSZAWY adds. At a news conference yesterday J. Urban, the Polish government spokesman, expressed satisfaction with the course of the session. The difference of views, he noted, mainly concerns the past, not the future. He gave assurances that the government side would act in a constructive spirit in the groups and would strive for agreement through compromise.

Jaruzelski Meets Swedish Foreign Minister

LD0902221189 Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Warsaw February 10 TASS—Wojciech Jaruzelski, president of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic, Thursday received Sweden's Foreign Minister Sten Andersson on an official visit here. During the conversation the parties concentrated their attention on key international problems and noted the apparent progress in East-West relations. Satisfaction was expressed over the fact that the talks on disarmament progress in the right direction was promoted by the results of the Vienna meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Paris Conference on Chemical Weapons. The sides also discussed important proposals in the area of disarmament and international cooperation advanced of late, specifically the Polish plan for arms reduction and confidence-building in central Europe and the Swedish initiatives for environmental protection.

The sides appraised the present state of Polish-Swedish relations and emphasized the mutual interest in their development, the readiness and will for the further development of contacts.

On the same day the Swedish minister was received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic Mieczyslaw Rakowski who told the guest about the work of the round table conference and programme of reforms in the economic area. The sides deemed it necessary to use every oportunity for the development of cooperation.

Poland's Sekula Comments on Trade Agreements

LD0802213389 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Feb 89

[From "the World Today" program presented by Viktor Lyobovtsev; interview with Polish Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Ireneusz Sekula by correspondent Georgiy Yakovlev in Moscow; date not given—recorded; Sekula speaks in Polish with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] Ireneusz Sekula, deputy chairman of the Polish Government, was in Moscow recently. Important documents were signed—a concept of economic and scientific-technological cooperation between Poland and the Soviet Union for the next 15-20 years, a joint protocol for the current year, and other agreements. Here is a brief interview Comrade Sekula gave to our correspondent Georgiy Yakovlev [video shows Sekula speaking to Yakovlev across desk]

[Sekula] The protocol is of great importance, as are the other agreements signed in Moscow. They evaluate the present state of our cooperation and determine tasks for the future. These documents contain qualitatively new elements, and not in the form of desires and forecasts, but of specific decisions by the two governments. For example, all Polish enterprises that will be trading with Soviet counterparts and selling their output will be able, according to the accord, to do this in rubles, and to buy in rubles what they need in the Soviet Union for the Polish national economy. The Soviet enterprises can export their goods to Poland and receive payment in zlotys, buying our products for zlotys. I think that enterprises, their managers and collectives, will carry out this exchange much more efficiently than, perhaps, ministers in Warsaw and Moscow. In these conditions, the governments of our countries have only to establish the general rules and ensure a monitoring of their implementation.

We have also created a Polish-Soviet Chamber of Trade and Industry. This joint body for the rendering of aid for scientific-technological and trade cooperation is open to all who are interested. The chamber is to serve as a good adviser and middleman for the enterprises entering the Soviet market, or the Polish market, and to respond in good time to their requests. I am an optimist, and that is the position from which I view glasnost and criticism. As you know, the first step is the most difficult, but once it has been taken, things get easier. I can say that it is the principles of glasnost in bilateral Polish-Soviet relations in the recent past that have helped to strengthen mutual trust. We can raise our relations to quite a new level.

[Yakovlev] Comrade Sekula, what influence could CEMA exert on the implementation of economic reform in Poland?

[Sekula] A lot of influence, I think, and there are several aspects here. First, everything that helps to develop the Polish economy—and that includes both cooperation in the CEMA context and contacts with individual countries—facilitates the process of reform, as well. Second, qualitatively new decisions are emerging in the context of our cooperation: for example, direct ties between enterprises, which have demonstrated how effective they are. They increase production, improve trade, and, in a word, make the reform tangible. The ordinary person, as we say, does not see what is written in the official papers; he judges his life according to what is on the shop shelves and what he comes up against everyday. In this sense, CEMA's capabilities must be utilized better than until now.

Tolstykh Meets Polish Technology Official

PM0802154389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
8 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Ties Are Developing"]

[Text] V.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, received Minister Z. Grabowski, leader of Poland's Office of Advancement and Application of Science and Technology and first deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers Committee for Science and Technical Advancement. They discussed questions of further broadening and deepening scientific and technical cooperation.

*Unofficial Trade With Polish Tourists Decried

WA1807050789 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA
in Russian 2 Feb 89 p 3

[Article by S. Yatsenko (Uzhgorod—Lvov—Moscow): "'Black Oases' of the Carpathians"]

[Text] Should trade and barter with transiting foreign tourists be allowed in the border area of the country?

The accumulation of vehicles, people, and police along the shoulders of the Lvov-Uzhgorod highway several kilometers from Mukachev causes many curious people to put on the brakes and sometimes even stop. For some passengers it is this stretch of road that is the final goal of the journey, sometimes a long one. The cars have not only local license plates and those of the neighboring Transcarpathian oblasts, but they are also from other republics, the Caucasus, Transcaucasia, Central Asia, Siberia, central Russia....

...It is a trampled down area filled with mud puddles, somehow fenced off by wire, and one must go past the guard shack to enter and leave it. Those who enter in a vehicle pay their tribute of a ruble and a half and then have the right to conduct free trade. Payment is also taken from the pedestrian "peddlers." As a rule, the sellers are Polish transit tourists and the buyers are our compatriots. The selection includes trousers, skirts, bleached denim jackets, knitted sweaters, cosmetics, watches and batteries for them, footwear, women's pantyhose, and chewing gum. One finds calendars with pornographic pictures, and if you get really good at this, people get to know you and you outdo yourself: Through an intermediary it is possible to make a large purchase—a videocassette recorder, cassettes, or tape recorders with earphones (someone aptly called them "mind blowers").

But when you first get to this "black oasis" of the Carpathian highways and you want to buy something it is not so easy. Yes, in the area there are cars with Polish identification stickers and tightly closed doors. Yes, men and women pass by with large, tightly strapped suitcases and they are explaining something to those around them in broken Russian-Ukrainian-Polish. They hold their suitcases tightly. There are many people around them. Once in a while one can catch sight of an item, but only in exchange for money. From hand to hand. Even when trying something on for size or examining it. And the car window is rolled up immediately and the trunk is locked. If the item does not fit or you do not like it, there is a reverse exchange: The money is returned only after the item has been shoved back inside the door or the skirt or sweater disappears into the bag.

As subsequently became clear from a conversation with the chief of the internal affairs administration of the Transcarpathian Oblispolkom, V. Siryk, and his colleague from Lvov Oblast, V. Popov, this caution was not excessive and followed from many years of experience in this kind of trade.

"Previously," V. Siryk explained, "when there were no such markets they were formed randomly: in parking lots along the routes or right in the ditches. The tourist would stop, open up his trunk, and the trade would begin. A couple of local boys would give in to temptation. A fashionable item costs a lot and they want it. They would stand around a while, do some dickering, take the item as if to try it on, and that would be it."

Of course, it is not our business to describe the nature of the crimes, there are legal experts for that. But one thing is clear: illegal trade creates favorable conditions for the development of crime, especially among youth. Both V. Siryk and V. Popov gave bitter statistics confirming this sad tendency. They also discussed what the police are doing to prevent such crimes. The opinions of the colleagues differ sharply.

In Lvov, for example, a special mobile subdivision was created for fighting crime committed against foreigners. They have begun to go after "traffickers" more actively and take them to court. Two or three times more of these cases have been registered in the past 2 years than in previous years.

In Transcarpathia, on the contrary, they think that this kind of trade should be legalized, assigning special points for this purpose. And it follows that nothing illegal should be done there.

"We are encountering a special kind of tourism," V. Siryk explains his position. "Transit tourism. One must understand these people. They travel through our territory and want to stop, rest, or have their car repaired. We have not created the proper conditions for this. It is at their own risk that tourists look for possibilities and come into contact with the local population. Of course, trade and barter begin. Ideally, there should be special stopping places where they could get automotive service and hot food and... there should be a provisions store. We have suggested this, but our highway and trade services are either ignoring this source of revenue or are slow in taking advantage of it. On our initiative, the service cooperative has taken it over."

It turns out that that very wire fence, the plywood guard shack, and the area in the mud puddles made it possible for enterprising cooperative members to earn, as we were told in the police department, 1,000 rubles each during their first month. And nobody even bothered with automotive service, hot food, or comfortable accommodations for the transit tourists. Moreover, the police themselves provided protection for the "profitable place" from robbers.

True, the opinions of V. Siryk and V. Popov converge in two places: Both are firmly convinced that it is necessary to tighten customs rules or organize state trade stores where the tourists can sell the things they have for sale.

While we were preparing this article, in which we intended to make these suggestions, the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a decree concerning regulating the importation of certain consumer goods. Now, since 1 February of this year it has been prohibited to ship out from the USSR either black and white or color television sets, household refrigerators and freezers, washing machines and sewing machines, children's clothing and footwear, natural or instant coffee, or sturgeon or salmon caviar. A customs duty will be imposed on a number of other items. The overall value of goods shipped out of our country will also be limited to R100 per person.

Does it seem that there is some kind of connection between the "black oases" and the new customs rules? It turns out that there is a very direct connection. It turns out that the Polish tourists bring in and sell their goods for only one purpose: to have a large sum of money in Soviet rubles. They need significant amounts of it. Here, for example, is the content of two vehicles: 576 cosmetics kits made in Taiwan (they are sold on the market at 40-45 rubles) 30 tape cassettes (price—10 rubles), 10,000 batteries for watches (3 rubles each); and in the other vehicle, 500 watches with calculators (50 rubles each), 687 cosmetics kits, and 5,000 batteries. When in the customs office they ask: "Where and why?" they hear in response: "We are taking them in transit." Naturally, everything disappears along the way. Even that which is written on the declaration "disappears": dollars, West German marks, and costly radio equipment. Here is a foolproof method: We were attacked and robbed. The police have additional fruitless work, the curve of crime statistics keeps going up, and at the same time the tourist is calmly crossing another border.

All this web of deception, large and small speculative transactions, the theft and robbery that are engendered by all this, the flocking together from all over the country like flies to honey to these "black oases" of people who are clearly not burdened by scruples about observing the laws have only one root: As we have said, the Polish tourist needs Soviet rubles.

Why? Well, this is a secret of the Poles—in order to purchase electrical instruments, knives, forks, and spoons made of German silver and nonrusting metals, and sets of kitchen utensils. But the most important target is the Soviet color television set. No, there are none of them in our stores today. Just as in Transcarpathia, Volynya, and Lvov and other border oblasts you cannot buy an electric iron, a coffee grinder, an electric heater, or, at the other end, an air conditioner. But Polish tourists manage to buy all of these. This is the second secret of the Poles. Ask any local resident of Lvov how much a Polish tourist pays for an Elektron. He will tell you: 1,500 rubles. And no one has gone out of his mind. Having traveled across state borders, with skillful manipulation our Elektron is gradually transformed into a small automobile—a Polish Fiat.

Good Lord, I have nothing against letting our Western neighbors drive around in their own Fiats. But I am in favor of being able to freely purchase a television set, an iron, or a coffee grinder in our stores. I know that the roots to the solution of this and many other problems lie both with us and our Polish comrades—in a radical transformation of our economic and political systems. But this will not happen tomorrow. And in the meantime there will continue to be shortages; and there will continue to form among us and among our neighbors a quite specific category of people for whom "radical transformations of our political and economic systems" are not only unneeded, but even harmful.

In a conversation with the chief of the division for international cooperation of the Main Administration of State Customs Inspection under the USSR Council of Ministers, L. Lozbenko, we came to the common opinion that there is a danger of overestimating new rules as a panacea for all problems.

This is because many businessmen and ministry workers have explained the lack of a number of goods by the fact that they are shipped abroad. There is no need for a deep study of the situation to be convinced of how unsatisfied the demand is on our scanty domestic market; all we need do is visit the stores in the cities and villages where no foreigner would possibly end up.

Commenting on the decree, L. Lozbenko emphasized that this measure is forced and temporary. It was very difficult to make the decision. He had opponents in the government and their arguments deserved serious attention. The decree must be regarded as a measure whereby our industry that produces these goods is given a 2-year period in order to use the most effective measures and the most energetic efforts to rectify the existing state of affairs. It is necessary to decide what to do about the trade stores, who should open them, and where.

West Europe

Kamentsev Delegation Concludes Visit to UK

Economic Agreements Signed

PM0902141789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talks Continue"]

[Text] London, 8 Feb—V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Foreign Economic Commission, who is here on a visit, continued talks with British Government representatives. Today he held talks with Energy Secretary C. Parkinson.

Lord Young, British secretary of state for trade and industry, gave a luncheon in the Soviet guest's honor.

M.I. Busygin and Yu.A. Bespalov; L.M. Zamyatin, Soviet ambassador to Britain; and R. Braithwaite, British ambassador to the USSR; are taking part in the talks.

Soviet-British documents were signed that represented a new step in the development of Soviet-British cooperation in the trade and economic sphere.

Yu.A. Bespalov, USSR minister for the chemical industry, and A. Gormly, director of the British company "John Brown," signed a protocol formally consolidating the emergence of the new Soviet-British joint enterprise "Acetco Ltd." This enterprise' first project will be to modernize and expand the production capacities of the polymer plant in Budennovsk, which is part of the "Stavropolpolimer" association. "Acetco Ltd" will start modernizing polyethylene production in Kazan.

Yu.A. Bespalov and O. Berstin, president of the British company "Golodetz," signed a protocol with the aim of establishing a British-Soviet joint-stock corporation this year. Its task is to expand reciprocal trade in chemical goods with the participation of diverse Soviet enterprises and organizations.

M.I. Busygin, Soviet minister of the timber industry, held talks with the British "Beloit Corporation" on questions of bilateral cooperation. As the memorandum adopted on the results of the meeting states, the sides agreed to develop cooperation in the sphere of trade and production of vehicles and equipment for the paper and pulp sector.

M.I. Busygin and R. Maxwell, head of the British corporation "Maxwell Communication," signed a protocol providing for the elaboration of plans to set up a joint timber industry enterprise which could make an important contribution to resolving the problems of meeting the Soviet market demand for paper.

Talks were conducted and a protocol was signed on the development of cooperation between the USSR Foreign Economic Bank and leading British banks in the sphere of improving credit and financial relations. The document signed will serve to ensure the growth of trade between the two countries and finance deliveries to the USSR from Britain of equipment essential for solving the most important tasks of economic restructuring.

V.M. Kamentsev became acquainted with the organization of work at the goods distribution center of "Sainsbury," one of the largest British companies, which owns a network of "supermarkets" throughout the country.

Delegation Meets Howe, Departs

LD0902190589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1705 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] London, 9 Feb (TASS)—V. M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is here on a visit, has met and had a conversation with UK Foreign Secretary G. Howe. Prospects for the development of Soviet-British relations were discussed, as well as a broad range of questions regarding the expansion of mutually beneficial bilateral ties in the trade and economic sphere and the perfection of the means of cooperation.

Taking part in the conversation, which was businesslike and constructive, were L. M. Zamyatin, USSR ambassador in Great Britain, and R. Braithwaite, UK ambassador in the USSR.

V. M. Kamentsev also held talks with the leadership of the Confederation of British Industry.

Today V. M. Kamentsev along with Yu. A. Bespalov, USSR minister of the chemical industry; and M. I. Busygin, USSR minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry, who were also a part of the Soviet delegation, left for home.

UK Secretary on Kamentsev Visit

LD0902204789 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Britain's trade and industry secretary, Lord Young, has said the trip by the deputy prime minister of the USSR, Vladimir Kamentsev, to London has promoted trade and economic ties between the two countries in preparation for Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Britain.

Lord Young reported that he was going to visit the USSR in May or June, at Kamentsev's invitation, to expand Anglo-Soviet trade. Seven British banks have agreed to give credits for that.

Mr Kamentsev and Lord Young discussed ways of creating a Soviet-British consortium to specialize in many fields. Two-hundred fifty British firms will take part in a month-long Anglo-Soviet trade fair in the USSR in April.

In the meantime, Mr Kamentsev has been received by the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe. During the discussions Soviet-British relations were examined and a wide range of issues was discussed. The sides favored mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation.

Finance Minister Meets With Finnish Leaders

Investment Agreement Signed

LD0802152489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1019 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Summary] Helsinki, 8 Feb (TASS)—Today an intergovernmental agreement on assistance in the realization and mutual protection of capital investments was signed by the USSR and Finland in Helsinki. The agreement was signed by USSR Finance Minister Boris Gostev and Finnish Finance Minister Erkki Liikanen. It will mainly be effective in the sphere of setting up joint Soviet-Finnish enterprises and supplements the decision adopted by the Soviet Government in December last year, in accordance with which foreign investors involved in this sphere are granted additional privileges and advantages. The agreement embraces such key issues for foreign capital as guarantees for the unhindered transfer of profits and the solution of controversial questions between the investor and the state, and the determination of the sphere of activity of joint enterprises. At this time more than 30 Soviet-Finnish joint enterprises have been registered in the USSR, which means that Finland is participating in approximately one out of every seven of the projects of this type set up in the USSR.

The agreement will assist in guaranteeing Finnish-Soviet enterprises general frameworks for their activity and the possibility of profitable capital investments. It is an important element in the program to develop and strengthen trade, economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation between Finland and the Soviet Union which has been extended to the year 2000 and focuses on the setting up of joint enterprises. The agreement also extends to Soviet-Finnish joint entrepreneural activity in Finland, such as the operation of mixed joint stock companies with the involvement of Soviet enterprises, which traditionally play quite an important role in bilateral trade. The signing ceremony was attended by USSR Ambassador to Finland Boris Aristov.

Gostev Meets Sorsa on Cooperation

LD0902202489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1136 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Helsinki 9 Feb (TASS)—Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of the Finnish parliament and chairman of the Finnish side of the Soviet-Finnish Standing Commission on Economic Cooperation, today received a Soviet (?delegation headed by) USSR Finance Minister Boris Gostev.

During the conversation questions were examined pertaining to the state and prospects for the development of trade and economic contacts between the two countries. The sides stressed the important significance of an intergovernmental agreement signed yesterday in Helsinki on assistance in the implementation and mutual protection of capital investments. The mutual opinion was expressed that the document—the first of its kind in the history of foreign economic relations between the USSR and capitalist states—will actively foster the development of promising bilateral collaboration represented by the establishment of joint ventures.

Kalevi Sorsa noted that a somewhat complex situation has emerged in recent years in trade between Finland and the Soviet Union due to reasons beyond the sides' control—the fall in world prices for fuel. This has, however, urged the sides on to restructure the cooperation mechanism and to seek new forms and opportunities. The decisions reached and agreed on last fall concerning the system of credit in trade and the mechanism for payment, represent a good basis for a long-term and stable increase in economic interaction.

Boris Gostev spoke about the course of restructuring in the USSR, stressing that the processes of renewal in the political system and the economic mechanism are closely linked. In carrying out the transformations, the USSR is aspiring to take into account the experience of other countries, including Finland, where a rational combination exists in the sphere of economic contacts between the principles of centralism and of free enterprise.

Kalevi Sorsa confirmed that people in Finland are following attentively and with genuine understanding the changes occurring in the Soviet Union, considering that they bear important significance for Finland as a friendly country and a neighbor of the USSR. He also stated that new ideas in the sphere of foreign economic contacts, in particular the idea of creating free economic zones, have been received with interest here. Finland is ready for cooperation in this sphere and hopes that the upcoming meeting of experts from the two countries will determine specific directions for the realization of such projects.

The Soviet delegation also met today with Errki Liikanen, Finland's minister of finance.

Boris Aristov, USSR ambassador to Finland, participated in the meetings and conversations.

The Soviet delegation visited a number of Finnish firms and banks, and familiarized themselves with their activity.

Health Minister Meets Finnish Counterpart

LD0902223489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Helsinki, 9 Feb (TASS)—The problems facing Finnish and Soviet doctors and questions relating to the further expansion of cooperation between the USSR and Finland in the medical field were discussed during a meeting today between Academician Ye.I. Chazov, USSR health minister, and Helena Pesola, Finland's social affairs and health minister. The Soviet minister is here on a visit at the invitation of the Finnish side.

Ye.I. Chazov and H. Pesola exchanged information on the state of health care and medical science in their countries and considered a number of issues affecting the prospects for developing joint scientific and practical activities.

The state of affairs in the doctors' fight against AIDS was discussed. The sides emphasized the need for the development of closer cooperation in this field, as well as for the broad dissemination of information on the consequences of AIDS and ways of preventing it.

Those attending the meeting also examined environmental problems and noted the need for the adoption of effective measures to protect it.

Zagladin Receives FRG Parliamentarians

LD1002103889 Moscow TASS in English 1023 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Military detente in Europe was the principal subject discussed during a meeting between Gernot Erler and Katrin Fuchs, deputies of the FRG's Bundestag, and Vadim Zagladin, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union (chamber) of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament), in the Kremlin on Thursday.

"We discussed in detail what has already been done to achieve military detente in Europe and, naturally, spoke of what is yet to be done along this road which is not easy but which is important to all Europeans without exception," Vadim Zagladin said today in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

"I want to point out that the deputies of the FRG's Bundestag highly appreciated the Soviet unilateral initiatives concerning a reduction in the armed forces and armaments in Europe, the initiatives which contribute to creating an atmosphere of trust on the continent".

All participants in the meeting agreed that military detente in Europe is not an end in itself but is the way to an overall improvement of the situation on the continent.

The parliamentarians showed interest in the conversion process which is getting under way in the Soviet Union and the necessity of which has arisen in view of the curtailment of military production.

"The implementation of a state plan to convert part of defence industry facilities to the output of products for civilian sectors of the economy has been started in our country," Zagladin said.

"Specific steps in this respect are already made, for example, at the Votkinsk plant which prior to the signing of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty engaged in the production of missiles. The guests from the Federal Republic expressed an opinion that the Soviet Union's experience in this field would undoubtedly be of benefit both to the FRG and the West as a whole".

The guests from the FRG are currently in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

Commission on Belgo-Luxembourg Ties Ends Session

LD0902215189 Moscow TASS in English 2048 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The state of and prospects for the development of commercial, economic, scientific and technical ties between the Soviet Union and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) were discussed at the 14th session of the intergovernmental mixed commission that ended here today.

The session was attended by USSR Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katyushev, Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs Willy Claes, Belgium's Minister of Foreign Trade Robert Urbain. During the session, members of the BLEU delegation had meetings with Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Boris Tolstykh, with heads of the USSR State Foreign Economic Commission, of the Ministries of the Automobile Industry, of the Agrarian Machine-Building Industry, of the manufacture of means of communication, the Chemical Industry and a number of other ministries.

The volume of trade between the USSR and BLEU rose in 1987 and 1988 to 1.1-1.2 billion roubles. The USSR mostly exports raw materials to BLEU, and, as it was noted at the session, the structure of Soviet export should be considerably improved through increasing the deliveries of equipment.

The Soviet import from BLEU is dominated by metallurgical products. The USSR also purchases chemicals for agriculture, sewn articles. BLEU is a traditional supplier of various equipment to the Soviet market.

The protocol signed on the results of the session emphasizes mutual interest in the widening of ties, in the transition from trade exchange to upgraded forms of economic interaction. There exists already the experience in trade in licenses and cooperation in the markets of third countries. Joint enterprise is less developed so far. There are only three Soviet-Luxembourg joint ventures in the USSR and a Belgian partner participates in a Soviet-Italian joint venture.

The ending of the 14th session of the intergovernmental mixed commission coincided in time with the formalising and signing of an agreement among the Governments of the USSR, Belgium and Luxembourg on mutual encouragement and protection of capital investments. This is the first such agreement in the USSR's economic relations with developed capitalist countries and it opens new horizons for mutually advantageous development of business, scientific and technological ties.

Latvians Hold News Conference in Copenhagen

PM1002120389 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 31 Jan 89 p 3

[TASS report: "Meetings in Denmark"]

[Text] Copenhagen, 28 Jan—The Latvian SSR delegation that is visiting here, comprising I.Ya. Kezbers, secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee; R.V. Pauls, chairman of the Latvian SSR State Committee for Culture; Ya.Ya. Peters, chairman of the Latvian SSR Writers Union Board; and N.V. Neyland, Latvian SSR deputy foreign minister, has held a news conference for Danish and foreign journalists. The meeting showed the great interest among the Western mass media in the processes taking place in the Baltic republics which are regarded here as one of the most vivid manifestations of the restructuring underway in the USSR.

During the news conference Israeli radio correspondent Eli Zakavi asked the delegation to comment on a Swedish radio report that, according to Vyalyas, first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee, this year the republic's agricultural system will be reorganized on a family basis and it will be possible to inherit land.

N.V. Neyland: Some of the land is being handed over.

I.Ya. Kezbers: We support this reorganization, but it is a very complex process. The important point about this question is that the party deems it lawful for state land to be transferred to the peasant for him to use in perpetuity. That principle is very important.

E. Zakavi: I can't understand all this. How is private landholding compatible with Marxism-Leninism?

Ya.Ya. Peters: Marxism-Leninism is not a dogma. Land belongs to the people, that is, it is state property. What is important is the principle ruling out exploitation of other people's labor. If that does not square with some dogma, it is perfectly consonant with the need to satisfy people's material needs as far as possible.

N.V. Neyland: One of Lenin's first decrees was the Decree on Land. Land was handed over to the peasants. Kolkhozes emerged after Lenin's death.

Ya.Ya. Peters: That was a forced Stalinist form. But about the Estonian avant-garde ideas, the process is developing in parallel in the Baltic republics and even in Belorussia. There is a lot of talk about Estonia in the West because of the timeliness of the Finnish press, which carefully watches developments in that republic. For instance, as far back as last summer in Latvia a few peasants received 99-year leases on land. Even before the "Estonian revolution." In several rayons of Latvia the boldest party first secretaries, who had understood the 19th party conference as a summons to creative freedom, on their own responsibility offered 99-year leases on land. Leases for a lifetime, for two generations. Of course, the boldest peasants took the land.

UPI correspondent D. Eastwood: I have three questions. Is the desire to invite Western firms to cooperate developing in your country? Is there friction between the indigenous and nonindigenous population of Latvia? What is your attitude toward the Scandinavian countries; do you feel like neighbors?

I.Ya. Kezbers: In the USSR the emphasis is being placed on implementing economic reforms. Only a united Soviet Union constitutes a force. A strong center will make the republics strong. The economic reform has authorized free access to the Western market. As of 1 April every cooperative and firm will have total freedom to seek a partner abroad. We have changed the essence of legislation on creating joint firms. Originally it was compulsory for our side to hold a controlling share. Now this has been abolished. The Soviet Union is studying options for creating free economic zones. Odessa, Riga, and Tallinn models are being discussed. In this connection I would like to express a certain reproach. While the Japanese are seeking our proposals, the Scandinavian countries are not showing any particular activeness in this regard. You must realize that we have little experience and we need advice, proposals, and calculations. It is time for Danish business to turn toward us. For instance, Raymond Pauls is prepared to organizing a book publishing house. We have a large market: children's books in Latvian and Russian.

Ya.Ya. Peters: There are no actual clashes in our republic, and we are confident that there will not be any. The example of Azerbaijan and Armenia is sometimes used to frighten us. But there is a fundamental difference. The friction there is between representatives of two faiths, but in our republic it is between the indigenous nation and so-called migrants from other republics. But we are all Christians. Moreover there are no tragic events in Latvia's history such as there have been between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The Letts became a minority as a result of their dramatic history over the last 50 years. It has to be taken into account that around 16,000 people were deported in 1941. Many people died on both sides of the front during the Great Patriotic War. Around 100,000 emigrated to the West. Around 43,000 people were exiled to Siberia during collectivization in 1949. Then an influx of people from other regions began. In addition, economically unjustified industry was intensively developed in Latvia.

We are now faced with the result, and in this situation we must do everything to democratize national relations also in the process of restructuring. The first steps have now been taken. We regard it as wrong to divide people into two groups—Letts and Russians. We are trying to provide identical conditions for the development of each nation. Around 109 nations live in Latvia. Classes are now being organized in the schools so that people can receive an education not only in Latvian or Russian, but also in other languages. Cultural societies have now been formed—a Jewish society, for instance. It is important to tell people about their country's true history, not Latvia's Stalinist history. We are on the threshold of a reconstruction of national relations, and the first steps have now been taken. Our aim is to establish harmony in these relations.

D. Eastwood: Do you have percentages for Letts' representation in the republic's organs of power?

I.Ya. Kezbers: Letts constitute 49-50 percent of the republic's inhabitants. In a few months I will be able to give a precise figure, since a population census is nearing completion in our country. Letts make up 64 percent of Latvia's parliament. Forty percent of Latvian Communist Party members are Letts. Just one of the five secretaries of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee is a Russian. But we don't care whether someone is a Lett or a Russian. The important point is that he has been born and raised in the republic.

Ya.Ya. Peters: It is a person's personal qualities that count. There have been instances of a Lettish majority seeking the attaiment of power by a Russian or Belorussian on the basis of his personal qualities. There is just one yardstick—does the person promote the republic's development and act in its interests?

E. Zakhavi: Are there Orthodox churches in your republic?

R.V. Pauls: Yes, there are. I'll tell you a bit about religion. If I were asked what I regarded as the most important event in Latvia's cultural life last year, I would say: rapprochement with religion. We have allowed our best cathedral, the Domskiy Cathedral, which has one of the best organs in Europe, to be used for religious services. Riga, Moscow, and Leningrad are conducting live television relays from the cathedral. I think this is very good, and religion is now a very great help to us.

J. Richter, journalist for Sweden's DAGENS NYHETER: You said you advocate the development of economic and other cooperation with foreign countries. Are there spheres you are particularly interested in?

I.Ya. Kezbers: It takes two to tango. You need to have mutual interests. We have rent-free land and cheaper manpower than you. Some 47 percent of Latvia's territory is covered in forests, that is, we still have great potential for timber processing. Our peoples have very similar traditions in furniture production. There is paper manufacturing and the printing industry. We are a transit republic; we have three major ports. At present work is under way in the republic on plans for free ports and on an economic zone. Another dozen examples could be mentioned.

N.V. Neyland: We have always said that the Baltic Sea not only divides us, but unites us. However, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark have forgotten us. It is as though we have disappeared.

R.V. Pauls: Allow me to interrupt. Look at the weather map in a Danish newspaper. Not a single city is shown on the territory of the Baltic republics, as though it were a desert. But there are very beautiful cities there: Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius....

N.V. Neyland: In my view, all the inhabitants of northern Europe know is that bad weather comes from the east, from the Baltic republics. I could say a great deal about what is now being written about the Baltic republics, especially in Sweden and Finland. A great deal is being written, well and tactfully, in my view. When it comes to our republic, I have noticed a particular increase in interest in it on the part of Swedish political and business circles. Anders Thunborg, Sweden's ambassador to the Soviet Union, visited us recently. A delegation of Swedish parliamentarians is visiting us in a few weeks. Our culture minister, R. Pauls, has been invited to Sweden to sign a protocol on cultural cooperation between Latvia and Sweden. Last year we established sister city links between Riga and Norrkoping, and talks are now under way on establishing similar links between Ventspils and Vastervik. We hope that air and ferry services will be organized between Latvia and Sweden.

Indeed, the Baltic Sea not only divides us but is beginning to unite us. Moreover, of course, our common concern is its ecological state, which is deteriorating.

Ya.Ya. Peters: Last December I visited Sweden at the invitation of the Foreign Policy Institute. The Swedes said that they were always guided by the stories of Baltic emigres, who alleged that the Balts were disappearing. Restructuring has shown that all three nations exist and are sometimes actually thriving. The Swedes are legitimately complaining to their citizens of Baltic origin about the incorrect information. In emigre circles attitudes toward their own nations are also in the process of changing.

L. Baden, journalist with RITZAUS BUREAU, the Danish news agency: I talked with representatives of the "Green" movement in Latvia and Estonia, and they said that they would very much like to proclaim themselves to be parties. What is the Latvian Communist Party's view of pluralism and the possibility of the creation of other political parties?

I.Ya. Kezbers: An interesting question. The last time I encountered this problem was on a plane flying from Moscow to Copenhagen when I read M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the conference of the Moscow city party organization. He touched on this question in the speech. The essence of his thought is this: There are no such traditions in the Soviet Union. You know from history that for the first 18 months of Lenin's rule two political parties were represented in the Soviet Government. All parties were disbanded in Latvia in 1934, as a result of the Ulmanis coup. In 1940 the Communist Party was the only one to operate legally. What I am getting at is that several generations have lived under a one-party system. M.S. Gorbachev's thought continues: The most important thing is that people are able to take part in political processes and control their government. Whether it is an individual part, a movement, or a mass organization is another matter. The important thing is to really have that ability. But I would not like to slam the door. We have the example of Hungary, which before 1992 is planning to expand pluralism to the point of creating other political parties.

The People's Front is now an important factor in the development of the Baltic republics. It can be hoped that the International Front too will make a positive contribution to development.

D. Schmidt, journalist on the Danish newspaper BERLINGSKE TIDENDE: How easy is it to travel abroad from Latvia?

N.V. Neyland: It's not hard to get permission to travel. The problem is money because the ruble is not convertible. Recently we have been developing so-called currencyless exchange, whereby each side covers its own expenditure.

V. Pimenov, staffer on the Russian desk of Munich's "Radio Liberty": What is the status of ATMODA, the People's Front information bulletin? Do the critical articles about the Moscow authorities appearing in the publication reflect the position of the People's Front or the Latvian Central Committee?

Ya.Ya. Peters: Translated, the bulletin's title means "Awakening." All the material published in it is independent of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee. Articles are not cleared, and their content is determined by the editorial collegium alone. It is now publishing material about the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. [Peters ends]

The members of the Latvian delegation also met with activists of the "Denmark-USSR" Society and the leadership of the Danish Communist Party.

European Committee Official Receives Award

LD0902131389 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has awarded Lev Nikolayevich Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, with the Order of Honor, for active work in strengthening links with the foreign public, and international security and cooperation.

Latin America & Caribbean

Ortega Comments on Contras, Amnesty

PM0902152588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Country Ready for Reconciliation"]

[Text] Managua, 8 Feb—Nicaragua is ready to fulfill its commitments and allow contras who lay down their arms to return to civilian life, President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has stated in an interview with the Mexican TV company IMEVISION. He also noted that, in accordance with the Guatemalan peace accords, all the states of the region are to help solve the contra problem.

For its part, Nicaragua would be interested in cooperating with other Central American countries in giving humanitarian aid to those Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who cease armed actions and take advantage of the amnesty announced by the Nicaraguan Government. However, D. Ortega said, it is also necessary to resolve the problem of those contras who do not want to return to Nicaragua and to find a country where they could be transferred from Honduras. Nicaragua believes the U.S. Congress could play an important role at this stage in giving humanitarian support to those contras who have laid down their arms.

The Nicaraguan leader pointed out that at present there are around 1,000 counterrevolutionaries on the country's territory, and uncoordinated groups of them have been attacking civilians.

On the meeting of the presidents of the five Central American countries scheduled for 13-14 February, D. Ortega noted that it represents an important step on the path to peace and democracy. It will not be able to resolve all the region's problems, but it is important that this step be taken, the president stressed.

Chilean Communists on Struggle for Democracy

PY0902233989 Moscow in Spanish to Chile
2100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] Politburo today released a statement noting that 1989 should be a year of great political struggle, in which mobilization of the masses will be decisive in carrying out the great task ahead, that is, putting an end to the dictatorship and initiating the march toward democracy.

The 5 October triumph was a hard blow to Pinochet's plan to perpetuate himself in power. The plebiscite by itself could not, and did not, put an end to the tyranny. It is still there, so a new struggle is necessary to root it out.

The choice continues to be dictatorship or democracy, and the new challenge posed by the dictatorship must be successfully confronted.

A decisive requirement is to attain the unity of all opposition forces, without exclusions, to press the demands and assert the rights of the people. The PCCh statement adds that this is the time to put an end to exclusionary positions, hegemonic ambitions, and internal quarrels. The most popular aspiration must come first: Pinochet must go.

The statement released this morning by the PCCh Politburo continues, saying that the struggle to consolidate a democratic regime is objectively linked to the process of electing the nation's president and congressmen this December. This election will take place under the rules imposed by the dictatorship, rules that have not been changed because of the weak opposition. Nevertheless, the people can and must turn this run-up to the elections into a battle to win a democratic regime. The Communists attach great importance to the electoral struggle. The results of this struggle will be more decisive if the choice between dictatorship and democracy is more visible in the battle to be waged on all fronts, not only to put an end to the Pinochet rule, but also to end the fascist institutional order.

The people gained experience during the struggle leading to the plebiscite: To win, unity is required, struggle is a must, mass mobilization is necessary, fraud attempts must be opposed, and victory must be defended. Finally comes the push for real changes.

The declaration of the PCCh Politburo, which was released this morning in Santiago, then states: We favor a single presidential candidate chosen by the consensus of the opposition forces. We Communists favor a single list to ensure a democratic majority in Congress so as to facilitate the transition to an effective democracy. We will try to reach such a consensus. If, above the people's unitary desire, other proposals prevail, we Communists propose that the leftist forces prepare a list as broad as possible. This list must include men, women, and youths who in the past years have become symbols of the resistance against the dictatorship. They are people who struggle for human rights, they are heroes of the resistance, victims of repression, labor union defenders, democratic militarymen, clergymen, and renown intellectuals who should be part of the representative institutions that will be established next December.

The candidate of unity, the PCCh declaration adds, should commit himself to carry out a program that interprets the wishes of the opposition and social organizations and that offers effective solutions to the great problems created by the dictatorship.

In its retreat, the dictatorship will leave behind a minefield that will require careful, responsible, and firm handling by the democratic forces. The tricks of the government will not be eliminated merely by the electoral results. In order to ensure access to an effective democratic regime, the people should mobilize. This is the only way to build the necessary force to defeat the fascist resistance.

The PCCh declaration, which was released this morning in Santiago, continues: We Communists, our allies, and the greatest possible number of opposition sector forces, propose to focus on solutions to the urgent problems that affect the Chilean people and on ensuring progress in the restoration of democracy. All this must be achieved outside the Pinochetist plans and the terms of the 1980 Constitution.

The declaration adds: It is necessary to immediately begin to defend our economic claims; to prevent the privatization of state-owned enterprises; to democratize the universities and expell the appointed rectors; to democratize the neighborhood organizations, the mothers' clubs, and other social organizations. The people must also exert strong pressure on the regime, seeking explanations for state repression and crimes, and ensure that those responsible for these crimes are punished. We must also demand the release of the political prisoners.

It is the duty of the Chilean left to promote social mobilizations to ensure our victory in all fields. As the influence of the Broad Socialist Left Party in the political scenario expands and an increased number of youths and intellectuals join the party, we realize that this is an alternative way of exerting pressure.

The party's proposals that call for unity and consistently defend the need to increasingly fight the dictatorship have profound echoes in the hearts of the people.

We Communists support democracy. We will fight to open up the path that can allow us to achieve this goal within the shortest period of time and through the most active presence of the people.

The PCCh declaration concludes by stating: We Communists support the type of democratic system that really respects human rights, that protects the economic and social rights of all workers, and that guarantees the citizens' right to perform their political duties. To conclude, we support the type of democracy that truly reflects the full sovereignty of the people.

We will contribute to the creation of a democratic government. We will use all our energy to perfect it, and will employ all means available to defend such a democratic system.

Political & Social

RSFSR's Vorotnikov Withdraws Candidacy in Elections

AU1002113489 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Moscow, Feb 10 (AFP)—A member of the ruling Politburo, Vitaly Vorotnikov, has withdrawn his candidacy from a Moscow constituency faced with competition in forthcoming national elections from two popular and radical opponents.

A spokesman from the Moscow electoral commission said Friday that Mr. Vorotnikov, the 63-year-old President of the Russian Federation, had been registered in the city of Voronezh, 600 kilometres (375 miles) south of here. Mr. Vorotnikov served in Voronezh as party first secretary in the 1970's.

Mr. Vorotnikov had faced a tough challenge from human rights activist Andrey Sakharov and Communist Party maverick Boris Yeltsin who were also nominated candidates to Moscow's Number One national-territorial district.

An aide to Mr. Yeltsin told AFP that the ousted Moscow party leader had "not yet decided" where to run, but he was reported to have chosen to stand in his home town of Sverdlovsk, in the Urals, where he would be unopposed.

The elections to most of the new 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies, the centrepiece of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms, are to be held on March 26.

In a further twist, radical economist Gavriil Popov revealed at an electoral meeting in Moscow Thursday that he too had been nominated as a candidate in Voronezh, but that the local electoral commission informed him that his name had been withdrawn, apparently in order to ensure a clear victory for Mr. Vorotnikov as sole candidate.

The economist vowed to fight the "anti-democratic" decision of the Voronezh electoral commission in order to run against the Politburo member. [passage omitted]

Yefimov Addresses Alma-Ata Voting Veterans

PM0902145188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 89 First Edition p 1

[Report by Captain P. Fetisov, retired, under the rubric "Elections of USSR People's Deputies" and under the general heading: "Veterans Give Instructions"]

[Text] The Kazakh Komsomol Central Committee conference hall was the venue for a meeting between war and labor veterans from Alma-Ata city and candidate USSR people's deputies registered by the all-union organization of war and labor veterans. The following took part in a lively and keen discussion with electors: twice Hero of the Soviet Union T.Ya. Begeldinov, a former front line flier; Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, commander in chief of the Air Force and USSR deputy defense minister; Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal of Aviation A.P. Silantyev, chairman of the Soviet War Veterans Committee; and Sh.Zh. Zhanybekov, leader of the republic's war and labor veterans organization.

Each candidate set out his election platform in detail. Then their agents spoke. Those present supported the candidate deputies on the fundamental question—the need to step up the participation in restructuring by veterans as society's most experienced detachment.

In their instructions electors said that veterans still have a considerable number of problems with housing and medical treatment in the home and there are frequent occasions when local organs of power were indifferent to their requests and needs.

It was said with distress at the meeting that the mass media sometimes completely disregard all the good things done by the older generation in past years. Shortcomings must be criticized but the grandeur of what has been done during the years of Soviet power must not be forgotten, either.

The war and labor veterans of Alma Ata city unanimously supported the candidate USSR people's deputies and fervently approved their platforms.

Paper Apologizes for Misquoting Official on Elections

PM0902152989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed "Correction"; article referred to was published in the 27 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, p 43]

[Text] An inaccuracy was allowed to occur in the article "The Candidates Are Nominated—the Struggle Lies Ahead," published in this year's issue No. 26 of IZVESTIYA, when reporting the speech by F.F. Kuznetsov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The stenographic record does not contain the words "...exclusion from the list would be a major historical mistake by the public," which had been supposedly said by him. The editorial office offers its apologies to F.F. Kuznetsov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Latvian Draft Law on Peasant Farms Published

PM0902123089 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 29 Jan 89 p 3

["Draft Latvian SSR Law on Peasant Farms in the Latvian SSR"]

[Text] The present law defines the economic, social, and legal conditions for the activity of peasant farms in the Latvian SSR.

The law is designed to uncover the enormous potential of peasant farms, increase their role in the acceleration of the republic's socioeconomic development, and step up the process of democratization of economic life. It aims to ensure the all-around utilization of peasant farms to satisfy the growing demand of the national economy and the population for food. The law establishes the basic principles of the development of peasant farms, defines relations between the state and peasant farms, guarantees a free choice of forms of economic activity by peasant farms, and offers wide scope for initiative.

The law guarantees to citizens the peasant farm's autonomy in economic management and independence in adopting decisions in the fulfillment of its tasks. The law ensures social justice and social equality in the right to labor, personal income, and social security for a peasant running a peasant farm.

The Law on Peasant Farms is in conformity with the further development of the political and economic system of the Latvian SSR.

Article 1. The Peasant Farm as a Form of Socialist Economic Management

1. Peasant farms are set up to produce high-quality crop farming and livestock products with a view to satisfying the population's demand for food products and industry's demand for agricultural raw materials.

2. Peasant farms, along with state and cooperative agricultural enterprises, are a basic component of the integrated national economic complex. Labor on peasant farms is a progressive form of socially useful activity.

3. The peasant farm is an economically autonomous commodity producer, and it autonomously determines its areas of activity and the volume and structure of production and carries out the organization of production and the sale of output.

4. The peasant farm offers real opportunities and gives the peasant a material interest in increasing the efficiency of economic management on the basis of autonomy in the production and sale of agricultural output.

5. Interference in the activity of the peasant farm by state and cooperative organs is not permitted.

6. In the light of their great significance for the republic's economic and social development and the deepening of the democratization process, the state supports peasant farms in every way and guarantees observance of their rights and legitimate interests in view of the need constantly to develop this form of socialist economic activity.

7. The activity of peasant farms, high labor productivity, and the opportunity autonomously to dispose of the products of one's own labor should stimulate the development of economic competition, stimulate competition on the goods market between peasant farms and state and cooperative enterprises, and promote the all-around improvement of the efficiency of economic management.

Article 2. Legislation on Peasant Farms

Relations concerning the formation and activity of peasant farms are governed by the present law and other Latvian SSR legislative acts.

Article 3. Formation of the Peasant Farm

The peasant farm is organized exclusively on voluntary principles.

The peasant farm is deemed to be formed from the moment of issuing of the state deed of entitlement to land use.

The peasant farm is subject to registration at the rayispolkom that issued the adeed of entitlement to land use.

Article 4. Representation of the Peasant Farm

The interests of the peasant farm are represented by the peasant in whose name the state deed of entitlement to land use is registered. He represents the farm in relations with state organs and other institutions and organizations, concludes contracts, and carries out other actions in the interests of the peasant farm.

Article 5. The Granting of a Land Plot to the Peasant Farm

1. The rayispolkom, in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the Latvian SSR Land Code, makes available to citizens wishing to form a peasant farm plots of land from the state land reserve, the state forest reserve, or the lands of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises and organizations.

2. Land and other natural resources that are exclusively the property of the state are granted to the peasant farm in perpetuity [v bessrochnoye polzovaniye].

3. A citizen wishing to form a peasant farm sends an application for a land plot to the rayispolkom on whose territory the land plot is located. The application indicates the location of the land plot and its user.

The rayispolkom, in accordance with the procedure stipulated, considers this application within 1 month.

4. The size of the land plot made available should be in conformity with the potential for its rational utilization by the peasant and his family and should make provision for the use of agricultural machinery, the receipt of steady revenues, and extended reproduction.

The size of the land plot is determined in each case by the rayispolkom in the light of local conditions, but may not be less than 20 hectares of land designated as agricultural.

5. Entitlement to forest use and water use is determined simultaneously with entitlement to use of the land plot, or separately.

6. The land survey is carried out at the expense of the state.

7. If the rayispolkom refuses to make a land plot available to a citizen, an appeal may be submitted to the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers.

Article 6. Land Use on the Peasant Farm

1. The land plot made available to the peasant farm may not be divided.

2. In the event of the death of the peasant to whom the land plot was allocated for peasant farming, one of his heirs, or in the absence of such, another person deemed to be a family member in accordance with the second section of Article 7, Point 3, of the present law, receives priority entitlement to use of the land plot, and a state deed of entitlement to the use of this land plot is issued to the new land user by the rayispolkom.

3. In the event of a dispute between heirs, the question of preferential entitlement to land use on the peasant farm is decided by the court, taking into account the contribution of each of the heirs to the development of the peasant farm, as well as the actual potential for running the peasant farm (fitness for work, professional training, and other circumstances).

4. The peasant running the peasant farm has the right to renounce his entitlement to use of the land plot granted to him. In this case he has the right to designate a successor from among the family members, who receives preferential entitlement to this land plot, with registration of the state deed of entitlement to land use.

5. Termination of entitlement to land use on the peasant farm may take place in the circumstances and according to the procedure stipulated in land legislation.

Article 7. Labor on the Peasant Farm

1. The activity of peasant farms is based on the personal labor of peasants.

In busy periods of agricultural work the peasant farm has the right to bring in other citizens to work.

2. The labor rights and duties of peasants running a peasant farm are defined by the present law, and those of persons brought in to work on the peasant farm under a labor contract—by USSR and Latvian SSR labor legislation.

3. Peasants running a peasant farm, including all family members permanently working on the farm, are eligible, with their consent, for state social insurance. In that event they enjoy the right to social insurance benefits and pension provision.

Members of the family of peasants running a peasant farm include spouses, children, parents, and other relatives employed on the peasant farm.

4. Peasants running a peasant farm have the right autonomously to determine the size of the proposed pension within the limits laid down by pension legislation.

Depending on the size of the proposed pension and taking into account the number of working members of the family, the peasant farm pays monthly social insurance contributions to the trade union raykom.

The rates of monthly social insurance contributions are set by the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers in conjunction with the Latvian republican trade unions council.

5. Time worked on the peasant farm counts toward both total and continuous length of service, on the basis of documents confirming payment of social insurance contributions.

6. The basis for confirmation of time worked on the peasant farm is the peasant farm labor record book, which is issued by the trade union raykom and contains records of the payment of social insurance contributions for each family member.

The form of the peasant farm labor record book and the rules for maintaining it are specified by the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers in conjunction with the Latvian republican trade unions council.

7. For persons brought in to work on the peasant farm, a contract is concluded in written form and is subject to registration at the trade union raykom.

Labor remuneration for these persons takes place on the basis of agreement between the sides.

8. The pension formerly prescribed is preserved in full for peasants running the peasant farm and for persons brought in to work on a contract basis.

9. Peasants running a peasant farm enjoy the right to health protection.

10. The peasant farm implements measures to ensure safe working conditions, machinery safety, and industrial health and hygiene, guided by the provisions and norms specified for state and cooperative enterprises and organizations.

Article 8. Property of the Peasant Farm

1. The following constitutes the property of peasants running a peasant farm:

1) buildings and installations;
2) tractors, trucks, equipment, other agricultural machinery, and spare parts;
3) productive and working livestock;
4) output produced;
5) other property.

2. Spouses living together and their underage children may have only one peasant farm.

3. The property specified in Point 1 of the present article may be the personal property of one spouse or their joint property. No one has the right to use a peasant farm to obtain illegal income or for other self-seeking purposes.

4. On the disbandment of a peasant farm, property remaining after the settling of accounts for labor remuneration and the fulfillment of commitments to the budget, the bank, and other creditors is divided in kind. Disputes on the division of property are resolved by the court.

Article 9. Legal Protection of the Peasant Farm

1. The property of the peasant farm is under the protection of the state and is protected by law.

The right to dispose of the property of the peasant farm belongs to the peasant farm itself.

The property of the peasant farm may be confiscated only by the court, in accordance with the procedure stipulated in law.

2. The peasant farm is answerable for its commitments with its property, which may be subject to recovery under existing legislation.

The state is not answerable for the commitments of the peasant farm.

The property relations of peasants on the peasant farm are defined by Latvian SSR civil and family legislation.

Article 10. Inheritance of Property of the Peasant Farm

The property of the peasant farm is inherited by the persons who are the heirs under the law or are designated in the will under the procedure stipulated in civil legislation.

In the absence of heirs both by law and by will, or if none of the heirs accepts the legacy, or if all the heirs are disinherited by the testator, the property of the peasant farm reverts to the state.

The heir of the property of the peasant farm is exempt from payment of the state duty stipulated for the issuing of a certificate of entitlement to inherit, on condition that he continues to run the peasant farm.

Article 11. Use of Natural Resources by the Peasant Farm

1. The peasant farm uses land and other natural resources in accordance with the procedure stipulated by USSR and Latvian SSR legislation. The peasant farm is responsible for compliance with demands and fulfillment of measures for the rational utilization and conservation of the land, water, forests, and other natural resources made available for its use.

The peasant farm must ensure the efficient utilization of land, take constant care to increase its fertility, use it carefully in accordance with the purposes for which it was made available, and protect the environment from pollution and other harmful effects.

2. The peasant farm implements, out of its own resources and credits, nature conservation measures to compensate for the negative effect of its activity on the natural environment.

3. The peasant farm must make good any damage it causes as a result of the violation of nature conservation legislation.

4. The activity of a peasant farm that grossly violates the regime stipulated for the use of nature may, under the procedure laid down by USSR and Latvian SSR legislation, be halted until the violations committed are eliminated.

Article 12. Sale of Output From the Peasant Farm and Prices

1. The peasant farm has the exclusive right to dispose of farm output.

2. Peasant farms may, on a voluntary basis, conclude contracts for the sale of agricultural output with procurement and processing enterprises and organizations, and may also sell to any other consumers and at kolkhoz markets at their own discretion.

Output sold by the peasant farm to organizations under contract by way of fulfillment of the state order are paid at state purchase prices on equal terms with kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Prices for the remaining output sold by the peasant farm are set by agreement between the sides or by the farm autonomously.

Article 13. Credit and Finance for the Activity of Peasant Farms

1. With a view to extending the production of agricultural output, improving its quality, and ensuring efficient utilization of land and natural and material resources, peasant farms have the right to enjoy bank credit at an interest rate no higher than that set for kolkhozes.

Peasant farms have the right to open current accounts at banking institutions for the management of accounts and the safekeeping of monetary resources. In order to open a current account the peasant farm submits to the banking institution an application, a copy of the state deed of entitlement to land use, and a card showing specimen signatures that have been verified in accordance with the stipulated procedure.

2. Banking institutions pay the peasant farms interest for the use of temporarily free funds in current accounts.

3. The utilization of funds from the peasant farm's current account takes place by means of clearing transfers or checks from limited check books or in the form of letters of credit, and also, at its owner's discretion, through the issuing of cash.

All payments from the peasant farm's account take place in order, according to the date on which the accounting documents are received at the banking institution.

4. Funds can be written off from the peasant farm's current account only with its consent or on the decision of the court.

5. Banking institutions may grant peasant farms long-term and short-term credit on the basis of a contract. In the credit contract the banking institutions and the borrower define the specific purposes of the loan, the size of the loan, the repayment term, and other credit terms. Credit contracts with the peasant farm stipulate the peasant farm's obligations in terms of security for the loaned assets, surety, and other forms of security for repayment of loans, as well as the insurance of buildings, installations, and other fixed assets created out of the credit received. Commodity and material assets, buildings, documents of title to goods, securities, and other property of the peasant farm may be accepted as security.

6. The peasant farm bears full responsibility for compliance with credit contracts and repayment discipline.

In the event of the peasant farm's failing to repay a loan on time, the banking institution may utilize its right to sell property accepted as security and to use the revenue from its sale to extinguish the debt.

The maximum term for the enjoyment of long-term credit for peasant farms corresponds to the term set for kolkhozes.

7. Short-term credits are granted to peasant farms by banking institutions for a term not exceeding 12 months.

8. State and cooperative organizations have the right to offer credit to peasant farms on condition that a contract is concluded between them.

9. Rayispolkoms have the right to grant peasant farms an interest-free loan up to the sum of R10,000 to cover the initial expenditure of forming the peasant farm.

When the peasant farm achieves a certain level of efficiency the loan granted may be extinguished. The procedure for granting the loan and the terms for extinguishing it are laid down by the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers.

Article 14. Taxation on Peasant Farms

Taxation on peasant farms takes place in accordance with USSR and Latvian SSR legislation.

Agricultural tax is exacted from peasant farms for the land made available for their use, in accordance with USSR and Latvian SSR legislation.

In the first 3 years rayispolkoms have the right to grant peasant farms concessions on the payment of agricultural tax or to exempt them from payment.

Peasant farms are exempt from the payment of income tax on income from the sale of agricultural output.

With a view to stimulating the production of output that is necessary to the population and the national economy, rayispolkoms and other state organs may make additional concessions on the taxation of peasant farms in accordance with the procedure defined by USSR and Latvian SSR legislation.

Article 15. State Insurance of the Property of Peasant Farms

Buildings and animals belonging to peasant farms are subject to compulsory state insurance.

The property of the peasant farm may also be insured under voluntary state insurance.

Insurance of the peasant farm's property takes place according to the rules for compulsory and voluntary insurance of citizens' property stipulated by USSR and Latvian SSR legislation.

Losses from natural disasters and other unfavorable conditions are repaid to peasant farms out of insurance sums received from the Main Administration of State Insurance organs.

Article 16. Material and Technical Supplies for the Peasant Farm

The peasant farm acquires the property it needs to carry out agricultural activity from state and cooperative enterprises and organizations, on kolkhoz markets, and from the population, and also acquires goods in the state and cooperative retail trade network.

Peasant farms have the right to acquire:

tractors, trucks, and other agricultural machinery and spare parts, mineral fertilizers, feed concentrates, tools, construction materials, fuels and lubricants, and other output necessary for farming activity through the material and technical supply system according to the procedure laid down for kolkhozes, at wholesale prices;

young animals and poultry from agricultural enterprises at prices decided by agreement between the sides;

high-grade seed and planting material from agricultural enterprises at retail and wholesale prices in accordance with the established procedure.

The repair and servicing of tractors, trucks, adn other agricultural machinery belonging to peasant farms is carried out by agro-industrial enterprises and organizations at the current prices (rates) set for the provision of these services to kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Article 17. The Peasant Farm's Relationship With Enterprises, Organizations, and Citizens

1. With a view to the rational running of the farm (servicing of agricultural machinery, prompt harvesting of the crop, and other necessities), the peasant farm has the right to conclude with enterprises, organizations, and citizens any deals for which provision is made in existing legislation.

2. The peasant farm has the right to acquire, exchange, lease, or borrow from state and cooperative enterprises (organizations) and citizens unused buildings, installations, machines, equipment, means of transport, and other property.

3. Payments for the lease of nonresidential premises and buildings take place at rates set by agreement between the sides, but no higher than the lease rates set by the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers for kolkhozes, and for machinery—at prices set by agreement between the sides. Tractors, powered chassis, and trailer equipment may subsequently be purchased at the residual value.

4. The peasant farm's economic and production relations with state, cooperative, and other public enterprises and organizations and citizens consuming its output and with suppliers of material and technical resources and all its economic operations take place only on contract principles.

In the event of failure to comply with contractual commitments the peasant farm bears material responsibility and repays the damage done to the consumer in accordance with the procedure laid down. State, cooperative, and other public enterprises and organizations and citizens, in the event of failure to comply with contractual commitments to the peasant farm, bear material responsibility and repay the damage done to the peasant farm in accordance with the procedure laid down.

The conclusion of contracts, including the choice of contract partners, falls exclusively within the competence of the peasant farm. Interference by state and cooperative rogans of management and officials in the establishment and implementation of contractual relations between peasant farms and enterprises, organizations, and citizens is not permitted.

5. In order to fulfill its tasks the peasant farm has the right, on a contract basis, to use property made available to it by state, cooperative, and other public enterprises, organizations, and institutions and citizens. With the consent of the enterprises, organizations, institutions, and citizens granting the farm the use of the property, it may acquire buildings, premises, equipment, and other property made available to it.

6. The peasant farm may use the social facilities of state enterprises, institutions, and organizations (clubs, libraries, kindergartens, canteens, sports facilities, and others), and is exempt from paying the running expenses of these facilities.

Peasant farms may use the social facilities of cooperative enterprises, institutions, and organizations on payment of the running expenses by agreement between the sides.
7. The improvement of land allocated for peasant farms, the provision of roads to them, and the erection of electricity transmission and communication lines are carried out by state specialized organizations out of the state budget.
Peasant farms are exempt from amortization payments for the above facilities.
8. Peasants running a peasant farm have the right to walk, drive, and drive livestock across the land of other land users with their permission.
In the event of refusal by a land user to grant such permission, it may be granted by the village soviet ispolkom.

Article 18. Associations of Peasant Farms
Peasant farms may, on a voluntary basis, unite to form cooperatives, fellowships, and unions expressing the economic interests of peasant farms.
In the event of damage to the rights and legitimate interests of peasant farms belonging to such unions, or if their joint activity proves economically inefficient for the peasant farms, they have the right to leave the union, with the return of the due share of common property. [draft law ends]

Please send observations and proposals on the draft law to the Latvian SSR Ministry of Justice (34 Lenin Street, Riga, 226173).

Paper Publishes Letters Debating Latvian Front

PM0902164189 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 3 Feb 89 p 4

[Roundup of readers letters under the rubric "Response": "Is There an Alternative to Dialogue?"; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] On 20 January our newspaper published under the general heading "Interfront After the Congress" material which attracted tremendous attention from readers and provoked a mass of reactions—letters and telephone calls. D. Ivans' "Open Reply" provoked the greatest response. It is noteworthy that readers unanimously expressed their concern with the stance held by the Latvian People's Front [LPF] Council. One letter alone expressed agreement with D. Ivans' statement.

We are publishing some of the responses we have received.

Old Tactics in a New Style

I have been a member of the CPSU since 1921 and a Lettish Red Gunner. During the time of Stalin I was subjected to repressions in 1938 and took part in the Great Patriotic War. I am not a member of any of the "fronts" now operating. LPF Chairman D. Ivans' "Open Reply" to the republic's Interfront Council made me write this letter. In my view, the "Reply" was written in an inadmissibly offensive tone. It is a clear refusal to hold honest debates.

This refusal to have anything to do with other public organizations indicates aloofness and conceit—characteristic signs of a corporative association. Everyone is ordered to unconditionally support LPF actions, yet we have seen what these actions are like on several occasions.

The LPF talks loudest of the need to improve the ecological situation. Who's arguing? Of course this is an urgent task. But when Interfront began to practically assist in the construction of purification units, the LPF did not support this useful venture and D. Ivans spoke ironically of it in his "Reply." Thus it is possibly, nonetheless, time to move onto concrete work to improve the ecological situation and boost the economy rather than engaging in unprincipled gossip, which most of the population has grown tired of. It is also time to stop pinning labels on people like "stagnationist," "immigrant," and others reminiscent of the Stalinist "enemies of the people."

I see D. Ivans' "Open Answer" as the herald of fresh negative actions on the part of the LPF. This is happening at a crucial time, when we are preparing for the election of USSR people's deputies.

Signed: Ya. Shults

Don't Spurn the Outstretched Hand

We all impatiently awaited the LFP Council's response to the proposals made by the Interfront republic council on joint work for the good of the republic's entire population. The recent Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum urged us to consolidate our efforts in support of restructuring. Since they are the two largest social movements, they should seek forms of cooperation and means of rapprochement.

Yet here we have D. Ivans' "Open Reply." I read it and was amazed! The LPF Council does not agree to create a conciliation committee—what can be done about that? Other more acceptable—to both movements—forms of coordinating actions must be found. But why reject the outstretched hand immediately, thus turning everything upside-down?

It transpires that the "perfidious" Interfront only wants that kind of cooperation in order to justify its assimilation of a minority people, migration, the intensification of centralization, and so on. This is stated by the chairman of the duma, who is probably familiar with the documents adopted at the Interfront constituent congress.

What kind of debate is this? It is more like a deliberate juggling of facts. Ivans' desire to "oust" Interfront members is exceeds elementary logic and, to be frank, decency. He himself even sarcastically calls the Interfront congress a "gathering of respectable internationalists."

The "Open Reply" piles one absurdity on top of another. This prompts distressing thoughts. Interfront is seeking ways to cooperate. This stance is clearly not to the liking of the LPF Council—I assume that D. Ivans was expressing the council's opinion rather than just his personal opinion.

At the end of the reply D. Ivans states outright that the aims of the LPF and Interfront are in effect directly opposed to one another and graciously asks all the republic's inhabitants to support the LPF program and actions. Well I never! As we observed the difficult talks and followed the difficult debate, we believed the disagreements would gradually be overcome and that the overall cause could only gain from this.

I would like to ask D. Ivans the following question: Who profits from the exacerbation of relations?

Signed: G. Minin, member of the CPSU

Why Spread Discord?

We have read D. Ivans' "Open Reply," and we cannot fail to express our opinion of it.

We have lived in Riga for many years and respect Latvian culture, speak Latvian, and have many Latvian friends. A few years ago we worked in a two-stream [dvukhpotochnyy] school. We never had any ethnic disagreements. Teachers shared their experience and passions and we held art and flower exhibitions and prepared amateur dramatic and musical activities in the two languages.

It deeply pains me that the chairman of the LPF Council reacted so harshly to Interfront's proposal on cooperation. Can D. Ivans really fail to understand that exacerbating interethnic relations does no one any good?

Signed: L. Punicheva, Ye. Chernyshova, V. Bardushko, A. Aptekman, G. Sinitsyna, and others— 15 signatories in all—teachers at Riga's No 63 Secondary School

I Express Support

I am a Russian, a member of the party since 1947, a participant in the Great Patriotic War, and a man who has served in the Soviet Armed Forces for more than 30 years, and I agree with L. Azarova, M. Kostenetska, and R. Dobrovenskiy, who wrote the article "What Are We Opposing" and with D. Ivans' "Open Reply."

From the outset I favored the Latvian People's Front since it is struggling for democracy. I was embarrassed to hear Comrade Dudnik's speech at the Interfront constituent congress: The general words, the Stalinist phraseology, and the condemnation of Borovik's splendid bold and honest article in OGONEK shamed and saddened me. Comrade Dudnik stated that he speaks on behalf of veterans but I, at any rate, didn't empower him to speak on my behalf.

The present struggle goes much deeper than ethnic ambitions. It is a struggle to democratize the country and cleanse it of the spirit of Stalinism, which any freedom-loving man cannot help but loathe. Honor and praise be to Latvians if they are to be in the front ranks of this struggle!

Signed: I. Bagryanskiy, deputy chairman of the republic's A.S. Popov Radio Engineering, Electronics, and Communications Society Board

In Favor of Consolidation

The Latvian Peoples Forum was a unique phenomenon in the republic's history. The documents adopted there won the support of the absolute majority of the population of the Latvian SSR. The main idea at the forum was to consolidate all forces for the sake of the republic's prosperity.

In this connection the "Avtoelektropribor" Plant collective received with interest the open letter from the International Front of Latvian SSR working people to the LPF Council on creating a conciliation committee made up of LPF Council and Interfront members.

However, on familiarizing ourselves with the open answer signed by D. Ivans, chairman of the Latvian People's Front Council, we believe that this document distorts the substance of the Interfront open letter and contains unwarranted assumptions regarding the aims of creating a conciliation committee. The entire form of the open answer is offensive and scornful toward the new public organization.

We think that thse statements are not aimed at consolidating efforts toward restructuring.

Signed: V. Andreyev, A. Auzinsh, Ye. Grodina, A. Nikolayev, V. Putninsh, A. Samusenko, and A. Turks, members of the plant's party committee, secretaries of primary party organizations and leaders of structural subunits, and others—a total of 35 signatures

Excerpts From Letters

The LPF's true aims are clear not so much from its program, which contains a great deal of positive elements, as from its practical actions. The latter are such that they lead to confrontation more often than consolidation. At least D. Ivans' response to the Interfront leaders' appeal clearly does not help normalize interethnic relations in the republic.

Signed: M. Titov

Inability to predict the effect of one's words is characteristic of political intriguers rather than politicians. Isn't it strange that LPF and Interfront Communists cannot find points of contact?

When I hear Russian schoolchildren signing songs in Latvian about Santa Claus I think that this is a more correct way of preserving ethnic culture than standoffishness and ethnic isolation. My grandson goes to a handball club involving children of various nationalities. Latsis was elected captain. I asked: Why? The answer was: He's fair. Shouldn't we adults live by that principle?

Signed: Ye. Yemelyanova

The fact that D. Ivans rejected the dialogue proposed by Interfront does the LPF no credit. One can't brush aside the fact of Interfront's existence. Common work is needed. It's a great pity that the council refuses to realize this.

Signed: L. Prikhodko

It would be excusable if the author of the "Open Reply" was an ordinary member of the LPF; but this is a statement made by its leader. The letter clearly lacks the diplomatic tact and rectitude which should be characteristic of a leader. It looks as though D. Ivans is not interested in Interfront's constructive proposals; he thinks restructuring is the prerogative of the LPF and that everyone who is not a member of the latter opposes restructuring. He is profoundly mistaken.

Signed: L. Peyner

Latvian Public Prosecutor on Need for Supervision

LD0902185689 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—By TASS correspondent Nikita Demidov:

Latvia's Public Prosecutor Janis Dzenitis believes that creating a separate party committee for Latvia's public prosecutor's services is a way to achieve complete independence of legality control by procuracy and consolidation of procuratorial authorities. This question is now being discussed in Latvia while taking into account the entire situation.

Janis Dzenitis, who took part in a meeting of the collegium of the USSR Public Prosecutor's Office, explained the need for this step by the reference to the fact that Communists from city and district public prosecutor's offices are members of primary party organisations along with court officials, lawyers, and sometimes officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the State Security Committee, and therefore might be under pressure.

"Restructuring of legality supervision by the public prosecutor in Latvia does not proceed smoothly as a whole", said Janis Dzenitis in an interview to the TASS correspondent. He explained that those who believe that the changes in the country enable the existence of almost anarchy have a strong influence in the republic. "Democracy does not mean permissiveness", the public prosecutor said.

He said that a firm stand in upholding the constitution is particularly needed now that certain leaders of the Latvian people's front, of informal associations such as "the movement for Latvia's national independence", "the environmental protection club", "Helsinki-86" quite often make illegal demands, alleging that in conditions of perestroyka it is not obligatory to comply with the constitution. They regard supervision by the public prosecution as "an encroachment on democracy".

Janis Dzenitis regards as an example of such a firm stand of the public prosecutor's office the sending of a memorandum to the republic's supreme soviet presidium suggesting the adoption of a decree prohibiting the activity of the "movement for Latvia's National Independence" as unconstitutional.

Janis Dzenitis said the leadership of the republic's prosecutor's office is of the opinion that its officials because of their duties cannot be members of any of the "Fronts", much less groups which make unconstitutional demands. He said the bodies of the ministry of the interior and the state security services of the republic have the same opinion. "Membership in the organisations which are formed on the basis of national and linguistic principles and different convictions can interfere considerably with the objectivity and principledness of legality supervision by the public prosecutor", he said.

Janis Dzenitis said that in order to ensure procuratorial supervision in the area of inter-ethnic relations it is necessary to formulate sooner and adopt a law on the fundamentals of the legal status of public organisations and the procedure of their registration.

'More Constructive' Work Underway in Lithuania

PM0702132789 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 89 First Edition p 4

[Article by "our special correspondent" Major Yu. Rubtsov: "Vilnius: Two Months On"]

[Text] In the ancient city of Vilnius the climate is unusually warm for winter. The political climate, which is determined by the very lively and committed election campaign, has also—unlike in the past—turned out hot.

Two months ago I had to file reports from here, and therefore I automatically make comparisons between what it was like then and what it is like now. Rally-based democracy has markedly abated, and today one rarely sees protests by informal associations. People are clearly increasingly coming to the conclusion that the fate of restructuring in the republic is now being decided at the workplace rather than at rallies or meetings, no matter how useful they might be.

The Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee proposals, published in the press, for the upcoming CPSU Central Committee plenum on interethnic relations, have attracted universal attention. The document says that the materials of the upcoming plenum should first and foremost restore the Leninist understanding of the Soviet federation, and that the USSR Constitution should clearly define the status of union republics as sovereign socialist states.

It is expedient to base the harmonization of relations between the USSR and union republics on a more precise and fairer demarcation of their competence. It is proposed to transfer most of the questions that come under the jurisdiction of union organs—foreign policy activity, management of production potential, formation of the republic budget, and demographic development—to the almost complete or exclusive jurisdiction of republics.

There are other proposals which, it is impossible not to notice, have something in common with the well-known Estonian SSR proposals, which were criticized at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium last fall. For example, the transfer of minerals, natural resources, and land to the republic's ownership or the introduction of a procedure for the republic's ratification of USSR laws.

Estonia's experience also comes to mind when one looks at the decree on the use of Lithuanian as the state language adopted by the republic supreme soviet presidium the other day. Court proceedings and correspondence will now be conducted in it; laws and resolutions of the government, ministries, and soviets passed in it; and teaching in the majority of secondary and all higher educational establishments will be conducted in it.

At the same time, the decree says, appropriate conditions are being created for the population that speaks another language—for the teaching of children in schools and preschool establishments, teacher training, and the publication of books and newspapers in the native language. Conditions should also be created for all who wish to achieve a proper command of the Lithuanian language in educational establishments and through special courses.

For a large section of the population—and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written about this—the decision does create certain difficulties. The republic coordinating council of "Yedinstvo"—the socialist movement for restructuring—has, at the request of the population speaking another language, begun collecting the signatures of people of nonindigenous nationality who consider the safeguards provided by the decree insufficient for the favorable development of not only Lithuanian but other languages too.

You can hardly expect to satisfy everyone. A sensible compromise is what is needed here, it seems to me. The main thing, I heard from Major General S. Nekroshus, member of the republic supreme soviet presidium, is to ensure that the safeguards provided by the state are not violated and that the timetable for switching court proceedings and correspondence over to Lithuanian is not rushed.

Thus, are there are clearly fewer rallies now and more constructive, creative work going?

"Yes, it would seem so," A. Baranov, deputy chief of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee State Law Department, confirmed in a conversation with me. "Unfortunately, the whipping up of emotions and extremist attacks incompatible with socialist pluralism still occur, such as at a recent rally organized by the Lithuanian Freedom League. (For readers' information, in the assessment of the republic prosecutor's office, the speakers at that rally slandered the Soviet state system, insulted the republic's leaders, and urged young people to refuse to do military service—Yu.R.) But that is rather the exception. Working people today are more concerned with practical ways of achieving political sovereignty and economic autonomy for the republic. These questions are also the key ones in nominating candidate deputies. It is important that people be aware that socialist renewal is being put on a practical footing.

Lithuania's Sakalauskas Speaks on Self-Financing

LD0902142489 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuania
18 Jan 89 pp 1, 3

[Unidentified ELTA correspondent interview with Vytautas Sakalauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, entitled "Republican Self-Financing Is an Urgent Task"]

[Excerpts] Question: On 7 January together with Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, and Secretary Bronislovas Zaikauskas, you took part in the work of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers session, where issues concerning regional self-financing was discussed.

Could you give a short review on the questions which were discussed?

Answer: I would like to remind you that proposals on how to improve the management of the national economy, self-financing, and on how to broaden independence had been advanced by the Baltic republics on several occasions. This work became especially active during the preparations for the 19th all-union party conference and later when implementing the adopted regulations.

On 31 August 1988 a working group was tasked by the USSR Council of Ministers with preparing proposals on switching over to self-financing in the Baltic republics, the Belorussian SSR, the Tartar ASSR, Sverdlov Oblast, and the city of Moscow. [passage omitted]

Question: What happened to the republican self-financing concept which had been prepared by the Lithuanian specialists and scientists? Was it taken into consideration in forming the all-union concept?

Answer: The work done in preparing our republican self-financing concept was not in vain. First of all, this concept was handed over to all the members of the commission; this means that the commission was aware of our aspirations.

Secondly, it was a clear starting point for the representatives of our republic helping them to evaluate more critically and objectively the proposals of other republics and those formulated by the commission.

Thirdly, nobody has nullified our concept; nobody has revoked it. Therefore, we are using it as a guide on the road to achieving economic sovereignty in the republic.

Question: Could you describe the differences between the general principles in the concept formed by the USSR Government and those of the republic's concept?

Answer: There are quite a number of differences. First of all, the proposal of the all-union commission does not embrace the entire self-financing concept. I will mention some of the most important ones.

The republic's state property is stressed in our concept (land, mineral rights, water, forests, and so on), however, the all-union proposals stress that all these belong to the state. Therefore, numerous differences arise out of this regarding control of property: departmental subordination of enterprises has not been given up in full, it is foreseen that some enterprises and systems will remain subordinate to all-union departments—for example, the railways, air and sea transport, and other things.

Although opinions were voiced that the law on state enterprises should be observed consistently and that the rights of enterprises should be defended, the creation of the free socialist domestic market that is indispensible to conditions of full self-financing will be impossible if the departmental subordination of enterprises is not done away with and if the compulsary state directives, target figures, the centralized apportioning of materials, and so on are retained.

Regarding going over to market relations, the possibility of introducing a new monetary system was envisaged in the republican concept. I believe that no one has any doubts that the present system in the country must be perfected.

Unfortunately, this was even mentioned in the materials of the commission. [passage omitted]

Question: Judging from the description of the general principles, it is clear that at this stage the republic will not receive economic sovereignty.

And what would the republic achieve if these principles were implemented?

Answer: You must agree that problems related to independent self-accounting are very complex and, therefore, cannot be solved in a flash.

I think we would probably harm ourselves if we suddenly destroyed the broad and well-established economic links with other republics, especially since many republics have not yet seriously considered new management methods. To dream about a wider foreign market with the present production standards and quality is also unrealistic. Therefore, self- accounting will have to be introduced gradually, stage by stage. [passage omitted]

Industrial branches which are subject to republican and all-union subordination—such as the light industry, building materials industry, wood processing and pulp industry, the agroindustrial complex, and trade—are planned to be transferred to republican subbordination. [passage omitted]

As soon as possible, about 60-70 percent of industrial output should be produced by enterprises subordinate to the republic (instead of 11 percent as at present). The entire social sphere and the nonproduction infrastructure will be under the control of the republic. [passage omitted] The construction of new enterprises of all-union subordination will take place only after agreement has been reached with the republic. We shall have far more rights in deciding about issues related to work, wages, and social security. [passage omitted]

Formerly we calculated the expenses, then discussed with the USSR Ministry of Finance how much revenue we would receive.

Under the new management conditions this situation will change. We shall set up the budget practically by ourselves—we shall determine expenses based on the revenue. [passage omitted]

Question: Both you and Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the session of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers. What were the main ideas in your speeches?

Answer: I would like to point out that out of all first secretaries of republican Communist Party Central Committees, only Algirdas Brazauskas took part and spoke at the session. This was rather unusual at the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Algirdas Brazauskas described the view republic's public on this issue and presented a detailed explanation of what we wanted to achieve through self-financing and what self-financing could bring to the people of the republic and to the entire country.

I had to analyze concrete instances of conflicts between the republic's concept that we had prepared and the all-union one. Our written proposals were handed to the USSR Council of Ministers. I will mention the main ones.

First of all, issues concerning property: I stated that the people of Lithuania would never understand why the land where we have been living since time immemorial, its riches, waters, and forests cannot be the property of a sovereign republic. Unfortunately, this position of ours was not accepted. We demanded that all specialized enterprises with all-union subordination manufacturing consumers goods, regardless how complex the output may be, should be made subordinate to the republic. It is difficult to find a commodity today the manufacturing of which is technically simple and does not require cooperation. [passage omitted]

There were extensive discussions on the issue of drawing up the budget. The proposals advanced by the all-union commission envisage that payments of certain percentages should be made to the all-union, the republican and the local budgets.

Our point of view is that this regulation is clearly lacking. Therefore, we proposed that all payments should go to the republic's budget and that the relationship with the budget of the USSR should be regulated in a centralized way.

However, it is not very likely that this proposal will be accepted. The reason given for this was that in other countries, federal and local taxes are also paid by the enterprises.

We protested against the proposed credit and banking system. Today it has become an established practice (which is being considered for legalization) that assets accumulated in the republic are taken away by the central banks, after which the republic has to ask them to give back some of it.

We are convinced that the republic's credits should be entirely at the disposition of the republic council of ministers, which has to carry out the credit policy independently.

We demanded that all specialized banks should be made subordinate to the republic. [passage omitted]

We cannot agree with the opinion of some economists and science workers that the republic's authorities are naively believing promises, that the authorities have been undecisive and make concessions to the 'center.' Facts testify to the opposite.

Question: It would be interesting to know the points of view of other republics on the issue of self-financing. Are these different from ours?

Answer: Yes, quite different. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have advanced the most. They have their concepts; and based on their concepts of self-accounting, they have very high aspirations. Whereas, for example, the representatives of the Ukraine on the whole advise against haste and favor waiting for the price reform, and only then to discuss the issue.

It is a pity that our neighbors, the Belorussians, hold a similar opinion. The republics of Central Asia feel they have been wronged because they supply raw materials and not finished products, the price of which is higher.

Therefore, the incentives to switch over to new conditions of management are not the same; and the final decision does not rest on the opinion of the three Baltic republics. [passage omitted]

Question: What is the short-term program of the republic authorities to achieve as much economic independence as possible for the republic, based on the prepared principles?

Answer: We shall continue to aspire persistently to get our proposals accepted.

Secondly, we shall demand permission to start to work under the new conditions from the beginning of the 1990. [passage omitted]

Of course the main and most important task remains to strive for full economic independence on the basis of the concept prepared in the republic. We did not and are not raising hopes that the all-union ministries and departments will give up their authority easily. The apparatus holds on to the policy of centralism with an iron fist. This is not difficult to understand. However, the fact that the best-known economists in the country do not understand or do not want to understand the grounded principles of self-accounting prepared by us or other Baltic republics is the most surprising thing of all.

More than one article has appeared in the central press stating that republican self-accounting would destroy the unified complex of the national economy, and that this would lead to seclusion and isolationism of some sort. [passage omitted]

*Lithuania Seeks 'Practical Path' to Independence

WA1800496 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by Major Yu. Rubtsov: "Vilnius: 2 Months Later"]

[Text] The weather is unusually warm for winter in the old section of Vilnius. In a break with the past, the political climate, determined by the currently extremely lively and involved pre-election campaign, has been marked as heated.

Two months ago, I had to report from this city, and therefore I involuntarily compare how it was then, how it is now. Rally democracy has diminished somewhat; nowadays you see fewer pickets from informal groups. It seems that people are more frequently coming to the conclusion that the fate of restructuring in the republic will be determined not at rallies and meetings, however useful they were, but at the workplaces.

The proposals, published in the press, of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee to the upcoming CPSU Central Committee Plenum on interethnic relations attracted general attention. In the first place, the document says, in the materials of the upcoming plenum, the Leninist concept of the Soviet federation should be rehabilitated, and in the USSR Constitution the status of union republics as sovereign socialist states should be precisely determined.

It is advisable to place a more clear and just limitation on the republics' competence in the foundation of harmonization of relations between the Union of SSR and the union republics. It is proposed that the majority of questions contained in the conduct of union organs—external political activity, control of production potential, formation of the republic budget, demographic development—be transferred to almost complete or exclusive republic conduct.

There are still other proposals, which, it must be noted, have much to do with the famous proposals of the Estonian SSR, which were criticized by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in the fall of last year. For example, the transfer of mineral deposits, natural resources, land in the republic's property, or the introduction of ratification processes of USSR laws by the republic.

Estonia's experience comes to mind when considering the ukase recently adopted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the republic on the use of the Lithuanian language as the state language. Now, clerical work and business correspondence will be conducted [in Lithuanian]; laws and resolutions passed by the government, ministries, councils of people's deputies, and teaching in the majority of the high schools and institutions of higher learning will be [in Lithuanian]. In addition to this, the ukase states that for the foreign-language population, appropriate conditions will be created for the education of children in school and preschool centers, teachers will be trained, books and newspapers will be published in their native language. Conditions must be created within educational institutions and in special courses for all those who wish to achieve serious mastery of the Lithuanian language.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written that for no small portion of the population, the decision's acceptance creates known hardships. The republic coordinating council of Yedinstvo, the socialist restructuring movement, at the request of the foreign-language population, began collecting the signatures of people of non-native nationality who consider the guarantees given by the ukase insufficient for the auspicious development of not only Lithuanian, but other languages as well.

It would be hard to expect everyone to be satisfied. It seems that a sensible compromise is needed here. The main thing, I heard from Major General S. Nekroshus, member of the Presidium of the Republic Supreme Soviet, is that the guarantees given by the state are not violated, and the period of transition to conducting clerical work and correspondence in the Lithuanian language not be forced.

Thus, rallying has declined, with an increase in constructive, creative work?

"Yes, it seems that this is the case," affirmed in conversation A. Baranov, deputy chief of the State Legal Department of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee. "Unfortunately, emotions were outrageously whipped up—extremist attacks incompatible with socialistic pluralism—there was still, let's say, a recent rally organized by the Lithuanian Liberty League. (I inform the readers: In the evaluation of the republic prosecutor, the speakers at this rally slandered the Soviet state structure, insulted the republic's leaders, and appealed to youth to refuse to fulfill their military service.—Yu.R.) But this is more likely the exception. Today, workers are most concerned by the practical path of achievement of the republic's political sovereignty and economic independence. These were key questions even during the nomination of candidates for people's deputies. It is important that people feel that socialist renewal is on practical tracks.

Commission Criticizes Armenian Quake Officials

LD0902175989 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1600 GMT 9 feb 89

[Text] Yerevan, 9 Feb [TASS]—The serious nature of the current situation which has come about in rural construction in the earthquake-stricken districts of

Armenia was indicated today at the latest working session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Commission. The session was chaired by Lev Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Since the start of the year, the program for utilizing capital investments for the first quarter has been fulfilled by only 13 percent here.

The commission subjected Armenia's Gosagroprom and Gosstroy to sharp criticism for not having managed to create a body to administer construction work in the rural districts, or to coordinate the activities of construction workers, designers, and surveyors. One characteristic feature which has come to light of the leaders of more than just these two organizations is a fear of assuming responsibility for a decision accelerating the flow of work. The commission demanded that leaders of all ranks be more organized and responsible in tackling the work entrusted to them.

The rates at which villages are being restored are also being hampered by a lack of initiative by officials of the republican Ministry of finance, who to date have virtually not begun paying out compensation to the working people for the homes and property they have lost. Meanwhile, builders cannot begin to lay the foundations for a school or kindergarten envisaged by the general plan because the site is covered by the ruins of an apartment block. It is not possible to clear away the debris because no assessment has been made of the value of the previous structure.

In general, throughout the disaster zone, people are dissatisfied with the bureaucratic workstyle of the finance bodies who are called upon to provide instataneous answers on all questions of monetary payments to the population in an operationalmanner. The commission warned the Armenian finance minister of his persoanl responbiliity for eliminating the indicated shortcomings as rapidly as possible.

The commission pointed out to the republican Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources a need for the careful preparation of all reservoirs and pipelines for the forthcoming irrigation season which promises to be difficult because of the snowless winter.

Batalin on Armenian Quake Reconstruction Work

LD0902130889 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Housing and social facilities, as well as agriculture and industry of the Armenian areas devastated by the earthquake are to be rebuilt within two years, said Yuriy Batalin, the Soviet deputy prime minister in an interview to the Soviet weekly "GOVERNMENT HERALD". Eight billion roubles have been alloted for these purposes.

We want not simply to restore the towns but to make a step forward in the development of town building in highly seismic regions, he said. Low and very compact buildings are being designed. Not less than 60 per cent of buildings will have unitary structures. Much attention is now being paid by Armenian specialist to preserve the traditional flavour of the settlement.

The amount of work to be done is illustrated by the fact that, to fulfil the house building plans by the end of next year, 120,000 builders are needed, said Batalin.

The Politbureau commission which was formed to organize relief aid to devasted areas will need to operate during all this two year period, said Batalin. "The forms of its work may change. I think that Soviet deputy prime ministers replacing one another in this commission is not the only way of operation. In future more management decisions will need to be taken by the Armenian Council of Ministers. And the commission members will regularly visit the sites," said Batalin.

Armenian Gosagroprom Official, Minister Appointed

PM0902155189

[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 31 January 1989 carries on page 2 under the headline "Chronicle" a report that the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers has appointed Ruben Mkrtichevich Chiftalaryan first deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Gosagroprom.

The same newspaper also carries on page 2 an Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree appointing R.M. Chiftalaryan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Gosagroprom, a minister of the Armenian SSR.

IZVESTIYA Examines Closure of Armenian AES

PM0902161188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Special correspondents S. Bablumyan and S. Taranov report: "Paying the Costs of Stagnation. How We Built and Are Now Closing the Armenian AES"]

[Excerpts] "The first power unit of the Armenian AES, with a capacity of 405,000 kilowatts, came on line 28 December. This moment had been awaited here for several years, and more precisely since 3 October 1969, when construction industry workers dug up the first cubic meters of barren saline soil..." These are the opening lines of a report carried by IZVESTIYA in 1976. On the very day that the ribbon across the gate to the Armenian AES was cut to the accompaniment of massed brass bands. [passage omitted]

The plan for the future AES was adopted on the basis of purely economic reasons. It must be admitted that they were borne out. The Armenian AES meets 44 percent of the republic's power requirements, and any "surplus" goes to its neighbors. But... if an accident were to occur, it would become necessary to seek new places of residence for the 450,000 people living in the Ararat Valley. And possibly for 1.2 million residents of Yerevan. This could be the cost of the power station's "convenient" proximity to the capital and its suburbs. There is also something else: Large deposits of artesian water used for main water supplies are to be found next to the AES. What if radioactive elements were to suddenly contaminate them in the event of an accident?

And finally, the question of seismic protection. Even though the Armenian AES is the only one in the country sited in an earthquake zone, this factor was altogether ignored at the time it was being planned. This is hard to believe now, but the threat of underground tremors became evident only... while construction was under way! They embarked on urgent reinforcement of the AES. Much was done, and the reactor unit is now capable of withstanding force 9 tremors. Furthermore, according to specialists' assurances, the power station's geological foundation can take a force 10 earthquake.

But even the protected reactor does not guarantee 100 percent safety. It does have force 10 "immunity," but the technical water supply system is built to withstand only weaker tremors. If an accident were to happen, there would be nothing to cool the reactor....

But why is it that these and other shortcomings were published only during the last few months? Was it not possible to take them into account 15-20 years ago, when there was still time to halt without squandering hundreds of millions on building a controversial project?

"We have no moral right to blame anyone in particular," AES Director M. Vartanyan firmly believes. "At that time there were completely different views on AES safety."

We agree, time makes it necessary to change attitudes even toward the most "incontrovertible" truths, especially in a new sector like nuclear power engineering. It is also true, however, that the Armenian AES came into being during the decades of departmental arbitrariness, lack of glasnost, and bureaucratic monopolism. Now people talk about using a public inquiry into a project, about taking into account not only our own but also other countries' experience. About an economy which cannot and must not run contrary to man's interests. But at that time, during the stagnant seventies.... This is tragic for each and every one of us, forced even in the 4th year of restructuring to pay the costs of the recent past.

And what will happen to the power station workers, the hundreds of talented engineers and scientists who cannot imagine themselves doing anything but their favorite jobs? According to the director, the majority of workers will remain here. Until the fuel "burns out," specialist nuclear engineering workers will ensure work safety. Some workers will be taken on by planning organizations working on AES conversions. It is likely that a large team of highly skilled specialists will be set up for the repair and maintenance of power industry facilities in the republic.

But all these are no more than suppositions for the time being. Many AES workers are alarmed. Some have already submitted their resignations. The uncertainty is worrying, there are no detailed plans for the power station's reconstruction.... The only thing that is known is that the future AES will be no smaller than the AES in capacity. There is a proposal not to make it a purely electricity generating station but to provide capacity enabling it to heat parts of Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Oktemberyan, and nearby villages. This would improve the ecological situation, since all smaller boiler houses in Yerevan could be closed down. Hothouses could be built on wasteland and hillsides near the power station.... But all this, let us repeat, is still in the future. As for now, people in the republic are seriously worried: How to overcome the power supply shortage which will develop with the closure of the AES?

"It will not be easy," Yu. Khodzhamiryan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, told us, "first and foremost we will have to step up energy savings. This is why the government instructed all ministries, departments, and local soviets to elaborate appropriate programs. Peak hour consumption should be reduced by 15-20 percent. Many enterprises and organizations are switching to a continuous working week with staggered days off. There will also be changes in the starting and finishing times of work shifts. Energy-intensive equipment will be repaired only in winter. The Sevan River water used for irrigation purposes will be pumped through the Sevan GES dam under a new schedule."

[Correspondents] At present, one in every five kilowatts generated in Armenia goes into the Transcaucasian Unified Power System. Will neighboring republics probably also feel the shortage of electricity?

[Khodzhamiryan] Yes, this is so. Our neighbors will also have to think about being thrifty. At the same time, the USSR Council of Ministers plans the commissioning of new capacities. There will be 300 megawatts each added to the Tbilisi and Azerbaijan GRES in the near future, and our own Razdan power station is undergoing reconstruction, with two specialized installations worth R31 million being bought for it in Hungary. The first power unit of the Rostov AES is due to start generating electricity in 1989, and its second power unit 2 years later.

Quite a few other measures are planned. They all are, of course, measures which have been forced upon us.

Armenian, Azerbaijan Procurators' Conference Held

LD0902123789 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 25 Jan 89 p3

[Excerpts] A conference of leaders of procurators' offices of the Armenian and Azerbaijan SSRs has been held at the office of the republic's procurator. The conference was attended by V. Nazaryan and I. Ismayilov, procurators of the Armenian and Azerbaijan SSRs respectively, as well as V. Titov, chief procurator of the USSR, and members of the collegiums of the offices of the procurators of the two republics, and responsible officials. [passage omitted]

As a result of lawlessness and acts of violence, and due to a lack of confidence in citizens in the ability of state bodies—including law enforcement bodies—to protect citizens, as well as the inaction of many procurators and their unwillingness and inability to embark upon measures to stop the violation of the law, the flow of refugees has sharply increased in recent months. The overall number of refugees (Armenians and Azeris) is currently about 300,000. [passage omitted]

The conference resolved to create a coordination council, comprising representatives of the offices of the procurators of the Armenian and Azerbaijan SSRs. [passage omitted]

It was resolved to present proposals to the Central Committee of the Armenian and Azerbaijan Communist Parties to create parallel commissions for the return of displaced persons to their places of permanent residence, and to include in these commissions gorkom and raykom first secretaries, gorispolkom and rayispolkom chairmen, leaders of local law-enforcement bodies, and representatives of trade union, komsomol, and other public organizations and workers collectives.

Entire Trancaucasus Risks Extreme Quake Damage

PM0902085588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
4 Feb 89 Second Edition p 3

["Letter to PRAVDA" from Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences V. Psalomshchikov, Leningrad Hydrometeorological Institute senior scientific staffer: "Cities and Earthquakes"]

[Text] In December 1988 a powerful earthquake claimed some 25,000 lives in Armenia. The forces of nature are blind.... But is nature alone to blame?

Here are some facts to the contrary. Yugoslavia, 1963. An earthquake of virtually the same intensity struck Skopje. The city was completely destroyed, yet the number of dead totaled 1,070. Peru, 1970. A force-9 rather than force-8 earthquake took place. Its epicenter was located 25 km from the city of Chimbote with a population of 120,000. Some 600 people perished. United States, 1983. The epicenter of a force-10 earthquake was located in the center of Coalinga City, which was completely destroyed. The U.S. geophysicist N. Jennings writes: "The amazing thing is that no one perished in that nightmare!" This list could be continued. The conclusion is obvious. The average statistical figure for the number of people killed in earthquakes of the same or of even greater force is one or two orders of magnitude smaller than in Armenia....

As a geophysicist, I have frequently worked in the Caucasus, because my sphere of interest is the quest for physical warning signs of dangerous natural phenomena. But I am not going to talk about whether specialists could or could not have predicted the 7 December earthquake in Armenia, but rather about the disproportionately great destruction caused, and the number of victims claimed, by the force-8 earthquake—that is, if you agree with the assessment of the force of the earthquake.

The government commission discovered, as we know, that houses and production premises of modern design collapsed, killing their inhabitants, while 5-story buildings built a quarter of a century ago remained intact. It was stated in a commission decision that construction would henceforth be carried out bearing in mind the possibility of force-9 earthquakes.

Are the 5-story buildings automatically stronger? No such thing! The point is that at that time, construction regulations were based on the possibility of force-9 earthquakes occurring. However, a quake-resistant building costs several times more than a standard-design concrete "box," and it takes longer to build. As for force-9 earthquakes, according to specialists' assessments they were likely to occur once in several hundred years, or even less frequently. The concerned organizations and departments began to express dissatisfaction—nothing much was likely to happen for 500 years, yet money had to be paid out right now. This promised to be particularly costly for hydro-project engineers, as the construction of the huge Inguri GES was in full swing in the Caucasus.

For your information: A force-9 earthquake is a devastating earthquake. General panic, houses collapse. Dams and water reservoir walls are seriously damaged. Underground pipelines are severed. Cracks appear in the earth.

A force-9 maximum does not allow for any overindulgence. Construction regulations are an important and serious matter.

But perhaps the specialists are mistaken and the danger is not that great? One must accordingly turn to science, as it will give the last and decisive word. And so, naturally, it was left to scientists to explain what a force-9 maximum would cost the state, how many people would fail to obtain housing for this reason, how much longer construction would take. And so, furnished with these points of reference, seismologists stormed into battle. Expeditions of a number of scientitic organizations went to the Caucasus during the seventies. The result of their work was a seismic zoning chart of the Caucasus on which there was no room for force-9 earthquakes. The maximum was assessed as force 8.

For your information: A force-8 earthquake is a destructive earthquake. Substantial damage is caused to standard-design buildings; sometimes they are partially destroyed. Delapidated structures are destroyed; monuments, towers, and columns collapse. Partly rotten piles give way.

As you can see, the effects are much less serious: Damage occurs only "sometimes" and is "partial." The golden age of construction workers had arrived. The motto was "as much as possible, as cheaply as possible."

As we know now, local "criminals within the law" contributed their bit, too, by misappropriating what was stipulated in the less than modest construction regulations. They reckoned with the connivance of the law-enforcement authorities. After all, the cement intended for installations capable of bearing greater static loads cannot be bought in the retail trade network. Its use in private construction can be easily ascertained by analytical methods or static tests of control models. I believe that it is necessary to do this now. And the residences built with stolen materials must, without fail, be confiscated and used to rehouse earthquake victims, while their former proprietors must be punished in accordance with the criminal code.

How did the specialist scientists in the Caucasus manage to "abandon their principles?" Why did they not recall, for instance, the force-9 earthquakes in neighboring Turkey, as if earthquakes respected state borders? Even the force-9 to force-10 earthquake in neighboring Iran in 1978 did not stop them from continuing the headlong construction of cheap housing for Soviet people. Construction of the atomic power station and hydroelectric projects continued apace. It is worth recalling that criticism was voiced even abroad. I will cite what I heard from a foreign geophysicist in Tbilisi in 1984 as he watched a multi-story building going up. I am putting it in much milder terms than he did: "Only very naive or very irresponsible people can build frameless buildings in such a seismic area!"

Even at that time, there were people in our country who not only spoke out just as categorically, but went to considerable lengths to prevent such an absurd and dangerous decision. An expedition from the Irkutsk Institute of the Earth's Crust, headed by V. Solonenko, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, arrived in the Caucasus. Omitting the details of their work, I will tell you its result: The specialists from Irkutsk were convinced that in the Caucasus, rather than identifying zones of maximum-force earthquakes, which may reach force 10 anywhere, it was necessary to identify oases where, by virtue of special natural conditions, earthquakes would not exceed force 8.

For your information: A force-10 earthquake is a devastating earthquake. Most of the buildings are destroyed down to the foundations. Dams, dykes, embankments, and bridges suffer serious damage. Numerous cracks in the earth and landslides occur. Water spills out from rivers and lakes.

The facts gathered by the Irkutsk scientists were countered with...legends! One of the participants in the Moscow State University expedition to the Caucasus, R. Balandin, set about studying the legends, songs, and rites of the Svans [ethnic group inhabiting western Georgia]. "He discovered no mention of earthquakes" in their oral heritage.

However, instead of studying legends, he would have done better to acquaint himself with traditional Georgian architecture. As far back as the 6th century builders took local conditions into account. In the construction of many temples proper antiseismic belts were used—the brickwork was held together with an iron frame. Meanwhile, Balandin and his supporters used the churches as their ultimate argument: The fact that the ancient churches have survived proves that there were no major earthquakes.

Yet historians knew that if people's sanctums were destroyed, they were carefully rebuilt. One such intact church was also discovered during a helicopter flight by V. Solonenko's group in the Inguri gorge. They landed to investigate. Above the archway an inscription in ancient Georgian read: "I, George, son of Antoniy, have rebuilt this Church of St. Ivlita and Kvirik, which had been destroyed by a powerful earthquake...."

Doctor of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences A. Nikonov from the USSR Academy Insitute of Earth Physics in Moscow was also able to collect and publish evidence proving that the lowering of the seismic ceiling was unjustified. Earlier, in 1980, a letter to the same effect was dispatched to the USSR Academy of Sciences on behalf of specialists from Moscow State University and our Caucasian expedition (we were studying seismicity in Elbrus glaciers at the time).

The efforts of the numerous opponents were not in vain. The interdepartmental council for seismology and quake-resistant construction at the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium, and other concerned organizations, including organizations in the Transcaucasian republics, were forced to undertake "new investigations." They proceeded, however, at a "snail's pace," dragging on for many years—and meanwhile construction continued unimpeded.

On 7 December 1988 a "mine" exploded in Armenia which had been placed there during the times of stagnation. How many more such "mines" are there still, in other places? After all, the same departments continued (and are continuing) to advocate the construction of a nuclear power station in the Crimea, where there was a force-8 earthquake in 1927, and where there are traces of a force-9 earthquake which occurred several hundred years ago. And that is only one of the examples.

There is an unwritten principle in seismology regarding the seismological ceiling: "If you overestimate, you lose money; if you underestimate, you lose lives." At the said time, people decided to save money. As regards money, a miser, as is known, pays twice. However, it is not a matter of the lost billions now. Unfortunately, even now no one has admitted openly and frankly that the whole of the Caucasus is under threat, since construction based on underestimated seismic norms took place throughout the region. If the whole Caucasus is now recognized as a force-9 zone, everything that has been built on the basis of underestimated norms, compounded by the inevitable theft factor, should be demolished. Certain structures could be saved by installing an internal frame, but that is problem for builders and economists....

The government has summoned up courage to close down the nuclear power station. Now the next step must be taken. Long, hard work lies ahead, work which should have begun yesterday....

Georgian Program Plans Improved Russian Teaching

PM0802091989 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 24 Jan 89 p 3

[GRUZINFORM report: "Language of Interethnic Communication"]

[Text] The Georgian SSR Public Education Ministry Collegium has discussed questions connected with the state of Russian language and literature teaching in the republic's educational institutions and measures to improve it.

The adopted resolution points out that the development of all languages and the equitable functioning of any of them is one of the most important principles of our state enshrined in the constitution. At the same time study of Russian as the language of interethnic communication is of great significance.

The comprehensive program designed for 1989-1993 has been approved proceeding from just this premise. The program provides, in particular, for appropriate rooms equipped with language laboratory apparatus, other technical means of instruction, and also visual aids to be set up in educational institutions. It is proposed to develop new teaching programs, textbooks, dictionaries, and phrase books and to improve teaching methods so as to make teaching accessible under rural school conditions, for example. Measures have been outlined to provide the libraries of educational institutions with editions of political and artistic methods literature, simplified texts of works by Russian writers, photographic readers, film strips, and slides.

Ukrainian Program To Develop Historical Research

AU0902095189 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 3 Feb 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee: Shaping Historical Consciousness"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined the issue "on working out a republic-level program to develop historical research and improve the study and propaganda of the history of the Ukrainian SSR." The decision notes that the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference gave a strong impetus to the revolutionary renewal of society. Under conditions in which there is an appreciable animation in the intellectual life of the Soviet people, the interest in the events of the past is naturally growing, and the need for a scientific reinterpretation of historical experience is increasing, as is the social role of historical science. The republic's social scientists and men of letters have stepped up efforts to examine littLe-known problems concerning the history and culture of the Ukrainian SSR. The Archeographic Commission under the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences has resumed its activity. The elucidation of these problems has improved in the newspapers and journals, on radio and television. At the public's initiative, voluntary associations have simultaneously been formed to study history and culture.

At the same time, in the prerevolutionary and the Soviet periods in the history of the Ukraine there are still many aspects of social and political life, of the revolutionary struggle waged by the working people, of the activity of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, as well as of the Communist Party of the western Ukraine, that remain dim and insufficiently explained. Quite a few complex phenomena and facts have been represented incompletely, in a contradictory or even biased way.

As a result of the numerous trials in the Ukraine before the war, many well-known party and administrative figures, as well as representatives of the intelligentsia, were repressed. The all-Ukrainian party congresses and Central Committee plenums of the Communist Party (of the Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine that were held in the thirties and forties assessed some of them in a way that was characteristic of the personality cult, and things not been reassessed since.

Little progress has been made in the work to prepare and publish documentary materials from scientific research into the historical and cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people. The problem of re-editing the heritage of prominent Ukrainian historians and men of letters is pressing.

The slow progress made in settling these problems impedes the elaboration of issues of principled importance for the history of the Ukrainian SSR, and has an adverse impact on shaping the historical consciousness of the working people. To a significant extent, it also prevents us from assessing in an objective way the activity of many prominent party figures, statesmen, and representatives of the scientific and creative intelligentsia, and contributes toward profiteering on "blank spots" in history, that is, chapters of history which have thus far hardly been investigated and have been insufficiently explained.

The study of the history of the Ukrainian SSR at secondary, vocational, and technical schools falls short of the present requirements, and this prevents students from forming a complete view of the ancient and modern history of the Ukraine. This study is not being regarded as a separate subject, and too few hours have been allotted to it. In higher educational institutions, the history of the Ukrainian SSR is read only in historical departments, and the curricula in secondary special schools do not provide for it at all. Modern textbooks on the history of the Ukrainian SSR for secondary and higher schools are nonexistent.

Significant improvements are needed in organizing the propaganda of historical science. This propaganda has not been coordinated on a republic-wide scale; on many occasions it is insufficiently substantiated and balanced, and does not take into account the particular features and intellectual needs of various groups of the population, particularly the younger generation. The press and periodicals frequently interpret complex phenomena and events from the historical past of the Ukrainian people in a one-sided and simplified way. There is a pressing need for more popular publications on science and history.

In view of the fact that the elaboration, study, and propaganda of the history of the Ukrainian SSR are very topical and socially and politically important, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has come up with the initiative and considers it expedient to instruct the Presidium of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, the Institute of the History of the Party under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, the Ukrainian SSR Ministries of Public Education, of Higher and Secondary Special Education, and of Culture, the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, the Main Administration for Archives, the board of the Ukrainian Writers Union, the board of the Ukrainian SSR "Knowledge" society, and the board of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments to work out, with the participation of the public and within the first half of 1989, a republic-level program for promoting historical research and improving the study and propaganda of the history of the Ukrainian SSR. The composition of a coordinating commission to work out the program has been approved. It is chaired by Comrade I.I. Lukinov, vice president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences.

In compiling the program, the commission has been instructed to draw up wide-scale and long-term measures to develop historical research, to eliminate "blank spots" in the history of the Ukrainian SSR, to democratize the work of archives, and to publish or re-edit historical documents and the creative heritage of prominent representatives of Ukrainian historiography, culture, and social thought.

It has been emphasized that there is a need to deepen the study of the history of relations between the Ukrainian people and the other fraternal peoples of the USSR, the study of interethnic relations, and of problems concerning patriotic and internationalist education; to organize broad discussions on the results of historical research at scientific conferences, in academic and sociopolitical publications, and in the press; and to encourage by all means the efforts made by scientific collectives, explorers of local lore, and veteran aktivs to rehabilitate all victims of groundless repression, and to perpetuate their memory.

The decision also notes the need to add the history of the Ukrainian SSR as a separate subject to the curricula of the republic's general education, vocational, and technical schools; to expand the number of schools with the intensified teaching of history and social sciences; to introduce courses on the history of the Ukrainian SSR at higher educational institutions and technical colleges, primarily at those specializing in the humanities; to begin training specialists in the history of the Ukrainian SSR at leading universities. The decision notes the expediency of setting up editorial boards and authors' collectives to prepare and publish textbooks, readers, and fiction on the history of the Ukrainian SSR and one's native land.

Provisions are being made to increase the issuing of popular scientific publications, to launch a sociopolitical and historical journal for the younger generation, as well as special serials for television and radio broadcasts, and to publish the biographies of prominent party figures, statesmen, and professional revolutionaries. The compiling of many volumes of a book dedicated to the Ukrainian SSR in a "Collection of historical and cultural monuments in the USSR" will be speeded up; the study of local lore will be broadened; museum exhibitions will be updated and replenished with materials on crucial events in the historical and cultural development of the Ukrainian SSR; the existing guides for historical and cultural tours in the Ukraine will be reviewed, and new ones will be prepared.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has pointed out that drawing up and implementing the aforesaid program constitutes an important order for scientific collectives, historians, and social scientists. The coordinating commission has been instructed, after consulting the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, ministries, and departments, to set up provisional creative groups to implement the program.

It has been resolved that an examination be made of the program for developing historical research and improving the study and propaganda of the history of the Ukrainian SSR in the Ideological Commission of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, and to publish it in the press for a wide public discussion.

Ukraine Party Decision on Victims of Repressions

AU0902180189 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 5 Feb 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee: Restoring Historical Justice"]

[Text] At its recent session, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee examined the work carried out in the republic to implement the CPSU Central Committee decision "on additional measures to restore justice to the victims of the repressions that took place in the thirties, forties, and early fifties," and the 16 January 1989 decree passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in connection with the aforesaid decision to abrogate the extra- judicial decisions adopted in the aforesaid period by the so-called "three-man commissions," "collegiums," and "special meetings."

In the decision adopted on this issue, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee notes that the implementation of the measures drawn up by the CPSU Central Committee is of high political importance. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee finds it necessary for party obkoms and the Kiev Gorkom to hasten the examination of materials on the rehabilitated former party members, and to reinstate the good name of everyone who was innocently victimized in those years. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo Commission in charge of these matters has been instructed to see to it that the entire work carried out to rehabilitate persons groundlessly sentenced and to monitor the implementation of the measures that have been drawn up is coordinated, that the services of the public are enlisted in this work, and that the mass media elucidates the progress of rehabilitation.

Instructions have been given to invigorate efforts to review archival documents concerning the so-called "centers" and "blocs," opposition and anti-party groups and deviations on the territory of the Ukrainian SSR, as well as concerning leaders of republic-level party, administrative, and Komsomol organs, and the republic's scientists and cultural figures who were repressed in the aforesaid period.

The Ukrainian SSR Procurator's Office, State Security Committee, Supreme Court, and Ministry of Justice have been instructed to ensure that the CPSU Central Committee decision and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree on this issue are strictly implemented.

It has been found to be expedient for the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Culture and Kiev Gorispolkom to organize a competition for the plan of a monument to the victims of the repressions, which is to be built in the city of Kiev.

It has been taken into consideration that, in accordance with the 16 January 1989 decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, oblispolkoms, and gorispolkoms are taking steps to form commissions made up of people's deputies and public representatives to assist rehabilitated persons in exerting their rights and interests, to help find and keep in proper order places at which the victims of the repressions had been buried, and to build monuments to them.

At its session, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo backed the proposal made by the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium with regard to the composition of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet commission for this purpose.

The persons proposed to the commission are: A.P. Lyashko, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and union-rank pensioner, as chairman; F.M. Rudich, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and director of the History of the Party Institute under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, as deputy chairman; P.A. Andreychenko, chief of the clemency section in the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.F. Boyko, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of justice; V.B. Vrublevskaya, Ukrainian SSR deputy minister of culture; V.V. Durdinets, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of internal affairs; V.M. Yevtushenko, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Security Committee; S.S. Yevtushenko, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and Ukrainian Trade Unions Council secretary; A.A. Zinchenko, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee secretary; F.K. Ishchenko, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian republic-level war and labor veterans council, retired lieutenant general; N.V. Kirichenko, chief of the section for housing and municipal services and for the comprehensive utilization of water resources in the affairs administration of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; N.V. Lavrukhin, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and Kiev Gorispolkom first deputy chairman; N.V. Lukiv, writer and chief editor of the journal DNIPRO; L.Yu. Mazur, chief editor of the journal RADYANSKA ZHINKA; Yu.M. Mushketik, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputy and first secretary of the board of the Ukrainian Writers Union; M.A. Potebenko, Ukrainian SSR first deputy procurator; I.N. Sedak, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian Architects Union; Yu.N. Sivovolov, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of social security; P.P. Tolochko, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural monuments; and P.G. Tsuprenko, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Court, as members.

Orthodox Church Revival in Ukraine Described

PM0702143389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent S. Tsikora report: "Bells Over the Desna. More Than 430 Churches Consecrated in the Ukraine Last Year"]

[Text] The light of icon lamps has once again fallen on the paintings in the Trinity Cathedral in Chernigov. Regular services have begun in the recently consecrated church....

The Trinity Cathedral is just one of the buildings in the complex of the former Troitsko-Ilinsko-Boldinskiy Monastery, which has been asserting the Christian faith in the Severskaya Zemlya for more than 900 years. By decision of the Chernigov Oblispolkom the entire complex has been transferred to the Ukrainian Exarchate. It is proposed to open a new educational institution here by the fall of this year to train curates for all Orthodox parishes in the Ukraine.

"This graphically expresses the new relationship between the state and the church which has taken shape during the years of restructuring," N. Kolesnik, chairman of the republic Council for Religious Affairs, said. "Last year a number of ancient religious buildings and architectural monuments in the Ukraine were transferred to the exarchate. They include the underground monastery in the catacombs of the Kiyevo-Pecherskaya Monastery and the monastery in the village of Goshev in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast's Dolinskiy Rayon. In all, more than 430 Orthodox churches were consecrated in the republic last year, and almost 50 other believers' organizations were registered.

"I particularly wish to draw attention," N. Kolesnik continued, "to the fact that the overwhelming majority of new Orthodox parishes have been started up in the republic's western oblasts—primarily in Lvov, Ternopol, Ivano-Frankovsk, and Transcarpathian Oblasts—that is, where the Uniate Church once had its stronghold. Some people have perceived this as more 'Moscow intrigues.' But to be convinced of the groundlessness of this assertion you have only to read some of the mail received by the Council for Religious Affairs. Hundreds of statements signed by tens of thousands of citizens living in the said oblasts ask for precisely an Orthodox society and not some other religious society to be registered.

"Of course, there are among these believers people who have not reflected on the special features of Greek Catholicism and Orthodoxy or weighed up the merits of the Rome Curia and the Moscow Patriarchate. They are interested not in the address of the spiritual capital but in having a church opened close to home, where they can pray, listen to a sermon, and worship. Even those who only yesterday secretly availed themselves of the services of roving Uniate priests today attend an Orthodox church and are pleased to have an opportunity worthily to satisfy their religious needs.

"Unfortunately, those circles in the West with an interest in religious life in our country do not wish to notice all this but approach the study of our religious life with obvious political prejudice. They still write and speak about some 4-5 million Ukrainian Catholics, dramatize their fate, appeal to our conscience, and sometimes—like Herr Gumpinger [name as published], deputy of the Landtag of Upper Austria—even demand of us a formal report on measures taken with regard to unconfirmed facts or facts expressly garbled by someone. But, figuratively speaking, capital is being invested here in an insecure cause. Priests calling themselves Ukrainian Catholics are not popular with the people. They are not helped either by the 'Grushev miracle' or by the open-air services held in a number of population centers. People do not approve of their alliance with overt supporters of ideas of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism, do not understand their hostility toward priests of the Orthodox church, and condemn their appeals to those foreign mass media which are known for their negative attitude to everything Soviet.

"Meanwhile, life goes on. At the request of the exarch of the Ukraine 100,000 copies of the Bible in Ukrainian were brought into the republic in the year of the 1,000th anniversary of ancient Russia's adoption of Christianity. Another 9,000 copies of the New Testament were printed in Lvov. The print run of the exarchate magazine is also being doubled in 1989.

"The tragedy of the Armenian people caused pain in the hearts of believers, as it did in all the country's citizens," N. Kolesnik said in conclusion. "Religious organizations in the Ukraine collected and transferred to the earthquake victims' fund almost R1 million and a lot of clothing and food. Donations are still continuing to come in."

Ukraine Association To Improve Tourist Services

AU0802145689 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 31 Jan 89 p 3

[RATAU report: "An Association Has Been Founded for Foreign Tourism"]

[Excerpt] **The ways to meet foreign tourists' demand for various services more fully and to improve the quality of the latter were examined in Kiev at a recent meeting of representatives of Ukrainian SSR ministries, departments, and oblast soviets of people's deputies. The participants in the meeting also adopted the decision to organize a Ukrainian republic-level association for foreign tourism, approved its statutes, and elected governing bodies.**

As a republic-level joint-stock organization for foreign tourism, the association is called upon to find ways to expand the material base and improve services for foreign tourists whose numbers are growing stronger year in, year out. In its activity it will creatively use and develop the existing experience of the All-Union Joint-Stock Company "Inturist" and of foreign tourist firms.

The founding members of the association are: the Ukrainian SSR Ministries of Housing and Communal Services, of Construction, of the Forestry Industry, of Higher and Secondary Special Education, of Transport, of Trade, and of Health; the Ukrainian Union of Consumers Societies; the "Ukrimpeks" association; the Ukrainian SSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Ukrainian branch of the USSR Foreign Economic Bank; the Ukrainian Union for Technical Services in Motor

Transport; the Ukrainian Civil Aviation Administration; Vinnitsa, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Transcarpathian, Zaporozhye, Crimean, Lvov, Odessa, Poltava, Rovno, Ternopol, Kharkov, Kherson, Khmelnitskiy, Cherkassy, and Chernovtsy Oblispolkoms, and Kiev Gorispolkom.

The association's activity is based on the principle of the voluntary integration of state, cooperative, and other unions, enterprises, and organizations in the association on the basis of shares in the association's fund, including from incomes in foreign currency. The most important conditions for the organization's successful operation are: a high level of services to foreign tourists, full economic accountability and self-recoupment of foreign currency, and direct interest in the results of economic activity on the part of the founding members. [passage omitted]

Commission Studies 'Mass' Illness in Ukraine Youth

LD0702195689 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Kiev February 7 TASS—By TASS correspondent Alexey Petrunya:

A special commission assigned to study a mass occurrence of chemical alopecia (baldness) in children has released its fresh report after several months of work in the Chernovtsy region in the Ukraine from where most of the affected kids come.

According to its findings, 218 children have been sent to research institutes and clinics in Moscow and Kiev from Chernovtsy and several other populated localities in the region since August 1988, when the first cases came to light.

Eighteen children have lately been added to 132 diagnosed as having chemical alopecia by November 25 last year. This put the figure of affected children at 150, according to the Ukrainian Health Ministry.

As to the remaining 25 kids, the republican commission has not as yet formed a final opinion. 43 children earlier sent for a check-up have been found to be healthy.

All but four children have returned home. Two are undergoing check-ups at the Kiev Institute of Pediatrics, the other two are being treated in a santorium near Kiev.

Specialists believe that the mysterious disease was caused by an enhanced content of thallium in the city's air environment and soil. This chemical element, certain doses of which may cause acute and chronic poisoning of the body, could have got there with the "acid rains" that fell on the city in July last year.

The ailment affected children aged under 14. They lost hair and suffered from mild nervous and mental problems, like increased irritation and hallucinations.

Tensions generated by the poisoning of children remain. People are worried above all by the fact that the source of poisoning has not as yet been detected.

At the same time, the city authorities are undertaking measures to improve the ecological situation in Chernovtsy. Downtown streets are washed regularly. Only local drivers are allowed into the centre. One day of the week is reserved for pedestrians only.

All children from the city, aged between five and 14, will spend their summer holidays at sanatoriums and pioneer camps on the Black Sea coast.

Moldavian Resolution on Draft Language Laws

PM0802150989 Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 26 Jan 89 p 1

["Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Resolution on the Preparation of Moldavian SSR Draft Laws on the Usage of Languages on the Territory of the Republic"—SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA headline]

[Text] The Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, having examined the proposals of the Interdepartmental Commission on the Study of the History and Problems of the Development of the Moldavian Language," notes that the social usage of the Moldavian language and the languages of the other peoples living in the republic was denigrated in the republic during the years of the personality cult and of stagnation for a number of objective and subjective reasons.

With the aim of further developing the Moldavian language and regulating its use alongside the languages of the other peoples living in the republic, establishing real bilingualism in the national language and Russian, raising the linguistic standard, and harmonizing interethnic relations, the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium **resolves**:

1. To instruct the Legislative Proposals Commission of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, together with the Commission on Interethnic Relations and Internationalist Education, the Commission on Education, Science, and Culture, and specialists, to prepare draft laws of the Moldavian SSR "On the Status of the Moldavian Language" and "On the Usage of the Moldavian, Russian, and Their Languages on the Territory of the Moldavian SSR."

When preparing the draft laws they are to be strictly guided by the Leninist norms and principles of nationalities policy and the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference resolution "On Interethnic Relations" on the need to ensure the equality of all citizens regardless of nationality and the unconditional recognition of the complete freedom of development and equitable use of their native languages.

They are to submit draft laws in March 1989 to the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for preliminary examination and subsequent nationwide discussion and presentation to a regular session of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet.

2. The Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers is to begin preparing a draft state comprehensive program to ensure the development of the languages of the nations and ethnic groups living in the republic.

3. The proposal of the Interdepartmental Commission on the Study of the History and Problems of the Development of the Moldavian Language on changing to Roman script in the written language is to be taken into consideration.

The Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Commission on Education, Science, and Culture, working in conjunction with specialists, is instructed to work on the thorough study of the problems connected with the use of Roman script and the further study of public opinion and other questions relating to these problems.

For the purpose of studying public opinion, the Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers is instructed to conduct an experiment to publish part of the print run of the weekly LITERATURA SHI ARTA and the works of a number of classics of Moldavian literature in Roman script.

4. Corresponding proposals are to be submitted to the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet on the basis of the results of this work.

A. Mokanu, chairman of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

N. Kiriyak, secretary of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Kishinev, 25 January 1989.

Moldavian Language Supported, Extremism Deplored

PM0902143588 Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 31 Jan 89 p 2

[ATEM report "Speech by S.K. Grossu," first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, at the 28 January Moldavian Consumer Cooperatives Congress in Kishinev]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Questions of the language and of spiritual culture in general, which, as is well known, have a direct bearing on relations among the peoples now inhabiting our region, are being widely and keenly discussed in the republic now. The Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee and the Moldavian SSR Government have been closely studying and analyzing the course of these discussions and associated processes in social life and and have been taking constructive decisions to ensure the successful development both of the Moldavian language and of the languages of the other nationalities and ethnic groups resident in our land.

The Central Committee supported the republic Supreme Soviet Presidium's proposal on the preparation of the draft laws "On the status of the Moldavian language" and "On the Functioning of the Moldavian, Russian, and Other Languages on the Territory of the Moldavian SSR." The Supreme Soviet Presidium has also been instructed to study questions connected with changing to the Roman script for written Moldavian.

Earlier and recently adopted documents provide for the elaboration of a concept of the official status of the Moldavian language and the regulation of its functioning in the republic, sets the task of conducting a thorough study of the problem of switching to the Roman alphabet, and confirms the reality of Moldavian-Russian and Russian-Moldavian bilingualism in the region.

The Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee has instructed the Supreme Soviet Presidium when preparing the laws on language to be clearly guided by Lenin's works on this question, the 19th all-union party conference resolution "On Interethnic Relations," the need to ensure the equality of all citizens regardless of nationality, and the unconditional recognition of the freedom of development and equitable use of their native languages.

I also have to report that the republic's Council of Ministers has begun elaborating a draft state comprehensive program to ensure the development of the languages of the nationalities and ethnic groups inhabiting the republic. It has begun work on an experiment to publish part of the print run of the weekly LITERATURA SHI ARTA and the works of a number of classics of Moldavian literature in Roman script.

In brief, we have every reason for saying that the main problems in the language sphere are being resolved positively. The documents adopted and the fundamental transformations that have begun in the language sphere may without exaggeration be called a turning point in the history of Moldavia and the development of its spiritual culture.

The time has come to embark seriously on implementing what has been planned. The republic's creative intelligentsia and teachers could provide great help in this. Thought should be given to the system, form, and methods of enhancing the social role of the Moldavian language in every labor collective, and raising its standard as well as the standard of the Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, and other languages. All this work must be done in such a way so as not to infringe on the interests of the representatives of the different nationalities, and not divide them but help strengthen the friendship and fraternity of the Soviet peoples.

The situation in the republic today is generally normal. However, it must be noted that individual extremists have been trying to destabilize it, create an atmosphere of tension, and sow dissension among people of different nationalities. We must use the efforts of the public to oppose all manifestations of extremism, demagoguery, nationalism, and chauvinism, and to make specific people bear full responsibility for the unpredictable consequences of their negative actions.

The Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee gave its principled attitude on the destabilizing actions of extremist minded people in a resolution entitled "On the instances of flagrant violation of public order which occurred in Kishinev City on 22 January 1989," which was published in the press. In the resolution, the Central Committee asked party gorkoms and raykoms and primary party organizations to be more demanding toward Communists who have strayed from principled party positions, calling them to account, and to respond promptly to instances of ideological compromise [primirenchestvo]. The attention of the leaders of the Kishinev Gorispolkom, the capital's rayispolkoms, the Prosecutor's Office, and the MVD in the Republic has been drawn to the need for a resolute campaign against extremism, irresponsibility, and demagoguery, and for ensuring the strict observance of the legally established procedure for authorizing and staging mass events.

I should like to emphasize in particular that personal responsibility for creating a normal atmosphere in labor collectives is borne by leaders, the administration of enterprises, secretaries of party and Komsomol organizations, leaders of trade union organizations, and chairmen of labor collective councils. They should be equal to the situation and not yield to emotions. It is extremely important to avoid ill-considered and hasty judgments and actions which could inflame the atmosphere and exacerbate the situation. It is important to foster a high standard of interethnic relations and intensify working people's internationalist and patriotic education.

The Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee appeals to workers, peasants, the intelligentsia, and representatives of all the nations and ethnic groups living in the republic to take a responsible approach to the discussion and solution of the complex questions of sociopolitical life, and to thoroughly grasp that they can be implemented only by correct mutual understanding and by strengthening the unity and friendship of the peoples.

Working and living in tune with restructuring is not easy, but there is no alternative: it is only restructuring which will lead to radical transformations in our national economy and the improvement of Soviet people's lives. There is a tremendous amount of priority work ahead. It can only be accomplished if every worker is imbued with a deep concern for the implementation of what has been planned, and if everyone works to his full capacity. [passage omitted]

*Candidates Discuss Turkmen Electoral Process

WA1830319a Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 2 Feb 89 p 2

[Article by correspondent G. Kolodin: "The Aspirants: How the Election of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee Secretary Took Place"]

[Text] They sat together in the hall, outwardly imperturbable, but an inner tension was betrayed by their hands, which, as they say, they did not know what to do with. Of course, it was not a case about which it is proper to speak: Their fate was being decided. But much in the life of one of them could change during the minutes when those present at the plenum of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee were considering which of the two first secretaries of party rural raykoms would be given preference. The vote is under way, and one of them will receive the congratulations, leaving his colleague and rival alone with the unhappy thought that he is the loser in the struggle between the aspirants. The traditional compliments heard on such occasions are passed to the loser, along with the assurances that despite his defeat he will remain in the reserve for a higher post. But can this compensate for the sleepless nights spent thinking about the provisions of the election program and the long hours of doubts and hopes? I asked this point-blank of the first secretary of the Tedzhenskiy party raykom, N. Ashirov, who turned out to be "second and superfluous" at the the completion of the voting for post of central committee secretary in charge of agrarian matters.

"I have no regrets about taking part in the competition," N. Ashirov answered. "It is a pity, of course, that I was only seven votes short of victory. But on the other hand, I am perhaps the first person to have looked at our problems so globally and gain some kind of new, higher level of thinking about the tasks facing the republic. I think that it will serve me well in subsequent work."

I talked to N. Ashirov while alongside, under the lights an interview was being given to the television people by B. Sakhatmuradov, the already former secretary of the Karakum party raykom and now member of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee bureau and central committee secretary...

Nevertheless, before talking about the actual course of the election I would like to go back in thought to the previous central committee plenum. Speaking at that plenum the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee first secretary S.A. Niyazov, analyzing the course of restructuring in the republic, emphasized in particular that it was possible to bring order to cadre work and raise a barrier against negative phenomena in this pivotal direction of party leadership only by relying on broad glasnost and the principles of democracy in cadre selection and placement. To the point, he recognized openly that the central committee buro is now experiencing serious difficulties in selecting candidates for the post of central committee secretary handling agrarian matters (K. Orazov, who was working in that post was elected first secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Mari Obkom).

Then that same S.A. Niyazov made a proposal to those present at the plenum: Let all those present, including the invited guests, write on a piece of paper the name of a candidate for the vacant post and put it into a ballot box. I saw that some of those present had a reaction of irony to this appeal from the first secretary: Well, they said, everything has probably already been decided at the top; is it worth playing this game of democracy? Alas, during the long years of stagnation a solid stereotype took shape: all cadre issues are resolved within a narrow circle. Was this not why the number of lists was small?

In all, 12 people were named on the lists. The central committee bureau carefully studied the proposed candidates and reduced their choice to three of them: N. Achilov, chairman of the Chardzhou oblispolkom, N. Ashirov and B. Sakhatmuradov. The final decision was to be made by the members of the central committee at the next plenum. However, the number of candidates was unexpectedly reduced to two: N. Achilov withdrew. He explained this step as follows:

"I do not think that I have a moral right to aspire to the post of central committee secretary. During the prerestructuring period I worked under the command of oblast leaders who compromised themselves, and although I did not personally become involved in the machinations and had no mercenary interest in them, I nevertheless consider myself guilty in failing to speak out openly against the account padding and other negative phenomena..."

Those present at the plenum gave a proper assessment of N. Achilov's action, which required a certain courage and self-criticism from the communist.

I spoke with many members of the central committee before the plenum and they all shared the opinion that it would not be easy to make the choice since both candidates were equally worthy. They both represented the young wave of party leaders promoted through restructuring, and they both had a background in agriculture, started their labor path with the kolkhoz farmers, and during their time as raykom secretaries had proved to be energetic people with initiative and capable of winning people's respect as communists. It was thought that S.A. Niyazov was not displaying cunning when, presenting N. Ashirov and B. Sakhatmuradov to the plenum, he stated that he himself had not yet decided which candidate to vote for. The subsequent course of events confirmed that more than one person wavered with his vote. In such a situation much was decided by the speeches of the candidates when they presented their programs.

In the event of his election as central committee secretary N. Ashirov promised to place the emphasis on intensive development of the agro-industrial complex through every possible introduction of advanced methods in labor organization and wages. In his opinion it was essential to act more boldly in promoting junior personnel to the most responsible posts, and to solve the food problem on the basis of realization of the social tasks and political approaches to leadership in the agro-industrial complex.

In turn, B. Sakhatmuradov presented a program in which the first priority was the task of comprehensive utilization of irrigated land. We shall not improve agriculture and feed the people, he stated, unless we learn to value and cultivate the land. The aspirant set priority directions for the republic in realizing the Food Program. In his view, these were vegetable growing, horticulture and livestock farming. Development of these sectors is impossible without consolidation of the produce processing and storage base. B. Sakhatmuradov talked bitterly about the continuing recruitment by managers of child labor. In our rayon, he said, we have reached a boundary and we do not plan to recruit schoolchildren this season; last year the large "Karakul-Kanal" sovkhoz gathered in its harvests entirely with the labor of workers. It is essential throughout the republic to make more efficient use of agricultural equipment and reduce the proportion of manual labor.

The candidates responded to numerous questions. Then there was discussion of the proposed candidates. Perhaps for the first time in this hall it took place in an open and interested manner. Without limiting themselves to assessing the candidates' programs, those speaking touched on many sore points in the life of the republic—ecological problems, the cotton-growing monopoly in the crop rotation and the associated barbaric use of irrigated arable land, the neglect of the social sphere in the countryside, the slow resolution of tasks in food self-sufficiency, the numerous cases of belittling the dignity of women, and the spread of the shameful phenomenon of kalym [bride money]. The sympathies of those speaking were divided about equally between the aspirants, and the secret ballot confirmed this: B. Sakhatmuradov won by seven votes.

Summing up the results of the discussion and voting, S.A. Niyazov noted that the elections had confirmed the correctness of the central committee orientation on the democratization of cadre policy. It is important at all levels to eradicate manifestations of parochialism, factionalism, clannishness and prejudice. An atmosphere of trust, independence and the freeing of initiative at the local level are being increasingly confirmed in the republic.

However, it must be said in the interests of fairness that the restructuring processes taking place in the republic are not receiving an unambiguous assessment. The election of the central committee secretary evoked contradictory opinions. Many, for example, were disappointed by the fact that on the dais the candidates virtually repeated their programs published in the press several days before the plenum, and that their speeches lacked self-criticism. Even the very publication of the platform of the candidates for the high post literally on the eve of the election hardly helped broad debate within the republic on the positions of the two raykom first secretaries. Some of the speakers also showed excessive tact, failing to note even a single flaw in the candidates' programs.

It is to be hoped that the lesson of democracy given in connection with the hitherto unprecedented election to a high party post in the republic will not disappear without trace. Otherwise, today will have been for nothing. And the alternative will stir up thought and call for further quest.

Local Seminar Views Turkmen MVD Shortcomings

PM0802093389 Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 25 Jan 89 p 1

[TURKMENINFORM report: "Seminar Conference at Turkmen SSR MVD"]

[Text] Participants in a Turkmen SSR MVD seminar conference that opened 24 January in Ashkhabad described the present situation in the republic as complex and alarming. This seminar conference discussed the results of Turkmen SSR internal affairs organs' work in 1988 and the tasks of further deepening restructuring in the light of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and subsequent CPSU Central Committee Plenums.

The reports by V.A. Grinin, Turkmen SSR minister of internal affairs, and B. Dovletov, chief of the republic's MVD Political Department, pointed out that the steps taken by law-enforcement organs do not accord with party and government demands. The overall crime rate has risen and the number of serious crimes and thefts of state and personal property has increased. There is no improvement in the detection and investigation of crimes. The effectiveness of work to prevent crimes and law infringements that involve minors or that are drink-related is low. There are still many shortcomings in law-enforcement preventive work and observance of socialist legality. The problem of personal dishonesty among internal affairs organ staffers has lost none of its acuteness: Crimes are not registered, materials are falsified, examination timeframes are violated, and illegal arrests are permitted.

The main and other speakers described militia staffers' inadequate competence and the poor standard of political educational work and control exercised by the leadership as the main reasons for this state of affairs.

All these problems were reflected in the decision of the MVD collegium held in the course of the seminar. It was noted that prevention of law infringements, very strict observance of socialist legality, and strengthening of ties with the people will receive priority significance in internal affairs organs' activity. Concrete recommendations and measures to rectify the situation have been elaborated based on these principles.

S.M. Nesterenko, second secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the collegium.

Lieutenant General I.N. Katargin, chief of the USSR MVD Main Administration for Correctional Affairs, took part in the work of the seminar conference.

Central Asian Islamic Leader Resigns

LD0702190789 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Tashkent February 7 TASS—The presidium of the Islamic Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan at its meeting in the capital of Uzbekistan considered its chairman's application to resign.

The presidium granted the request of Mufti Shamsuddinkhan ibn Ziyhauddinkhan ibn Ishan Babakhan.

Representatives of the Central Asian and Kazakhstan Muslims will elect a new head of the Islamic board at their congress slated for next spring.

Before the congress, the duties of chairman will be performed by Mukhammadsadyk Mamayusupov, 36.

He graduated from the mir-Arab Madrasah in Bukhara, worked on staff of the magazine "MOSLEMS OF THE SOVIET ORIENT", studied in Tripoli, at the University of Libya.

He has served as head of the Islamic Institute in Tashkent since 1987.

More on Law Enforcement Leaders' Forum

PM0902133189 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Feb 89 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "At the USSR Prosecutor's Office: Strengthening Law and Order"]

[Text] A session of the coordinating council of union law-enforcement organs Leaders under the chairmanship of USSR Prosecutor General A.Ya. Sukharev was held 7 February. Prosecutors, ministers of internal affairs and justice, and chairmen of supreme courts of union republics, prosecutors of autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts, and military and transport prosecutors took part. It examined the state of the fight against crime and measures to further strengthen law and order in the country.

Session participants said that it has not been possible to develop the process of consistently reducing crime initiated in 1985. Last year the total number of recorded crimes increased by almost 4 percent and serious crimes by more than 6 percent. The activeness of organized criminal groups was noted. Crime among minors has risen considerably.

Many law-enforcement agency leaders failed to draw timely conclusions from the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the State of the Fight Against Crime in the Country and Measures to Prevent Law Violations," which drew attention to emerging negative trends and serious miscalculations in the work of law-enforcement organs which place weak reliance on the help of working people and the broad public. Unjustified complacency and underassessment of factors underpinning the growth in serious crime have occurred in a number of places. There has been a loss of sharpness in reacting to manifestations of hooliganism, parasitism, drug addiction, and drunkenness.

There has been a clear slackening off in the attention paid to preventing criminal recidivism. Appropriate conclusions have not been drawn from the processes of humanizing criminal policy taking place in society. Those released from criminal responsibility or given noncustodial sentences have quite often escaped the supervision of the public and the law-enforcement organs. Many people released from places of imprisonment are not receiving timely assistance in job placement and everyday living arrangements.

The coordinating council drew the attention of republic and oblast law-enforcement organ leaders to professional miscalculations in their work, unsatisfactory crime detection rates, a poor standard of operational and investigation work, and slackening supervision by the prosecutor's office over inquiries and investigation. There has been an increase in cases of officials' shirking decisions on breaches of the law and of leniency toward dangerous criminals and persistent offenders.

The session adopted a coordinated program of urgent measures designed to intensify the fight against crime, which should assist the democratic processes under way in the country. Main efforts will be focussed on enhancing society's preventive potential and strengthening links with labor collectives, trade union and Komsomol organizations, local soviets, and autonomous working people's organizations. Measures are envisaged to ensure more extensive collaboration with the mass media in molding public opinion and creating an atmosphere of intolerance toward breaches of the law and various parasitic elements.

T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, V.Ye. Sidorov, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee State Law Department, and leaders of a number of ministries and departments took part in the council's work.

Pedagogical Academy Leaders Pursue Radical Change

PM0802140989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 2

[I. Prelovskaya report: "That Was Just the First Step. The New Leadership of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences Has To Bring About Its Radical Restructuring"]

[Text] It was a year ago that the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum acknowledged as justified the sharp criticism leveled by the public against the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences for its detachment from real life, the secrecy in its work, and its evasion of the acute problems facing public education. That was when it was decided to effect its profound reorganization.

An in-depth examination showed the academy to be not the source of fresh ideas, not a staff elaborating the strategy of tomorrow's schools, but an obedient executor of orders requesting theoretical backing for administrative decisions. The drama of the academy as it is today, just like that of many institutions, is rooted in the fact that talented people capable of resisting departmental pressure were squeezed out during the period of stagnation and were replaced by compliant and convenient persons. The time has now come to demolish the ossified structures, but there is a shortage of transformers, of leaders, of personalities.

The elections to the academy, just like the teachers' congress, clearly demonstrated the confrontation between the champions of democratic pedagogy and authoritarian pedagogy. There were many occasions when the braking mechanism either operated or was ready to operate against those who furiously opposed the academic procedures. When that happened, scientific merit and the contribution to the struggle for a new school receded into the background in the heat of polemical passions. V. Zinchenko, corresponding member of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and a major psychologist whose works are famous both in our own country and all over the world, was not elected as academician, victory going instead to N. Vasadze even though there can be no comparison at all when it comes to the fundamental importance of her scientific work.

It was only after a second round of voting that Georgia's remarkable pedagogue Sh. Amonashvili was elected an academician. E. Dneprov, leader of VNIK [precise expansion unknown], a collective which made a substantial and fruitful contribution to the congress by means of fresh creative ideas, was altogether rejected in the ballot. Even so, the election result was better than expected and forecast. The 19 new academicians and 12 corresponding members include eminent figures of science, culture, and education, such as I. Ivanov, I. Antonova, I. Kon, G. Zabulis, P. Erdniyev, A. Katolikov, V. Lakshin, and others.

The general assembly consented that a government commission could take part in the presidium election. Academicians V. Davydov and V. Razumovskiy became vice-presidents of the academy. Another election to the academy will be held this year, and it was decided not to elect a president for the time being and to leave open an opportunity to enlarge the presidium in the future. Minister V. Shadrikov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Education, was elected acting president.

The government commission concluded its work. The reorganization of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences will now be continued by its new leadership.

"That was just the first step along the path of the academy's reorganization," V. Shadrikov said. "The main work lies ahead—to review the network of scientific institutions under the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and its structure, to determine the subject matter of research, and to draft a new statute of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences."

The academy is on the threshold of changes. Maybe the most important thing it has to do is to become bolder in promoting and supporting talented, thinking, and intractable people. No success is likely without them.

New Journal To Replace SOVETSKIY EXPORT

LD0802135689 Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—BUSINESS-CONTACT is the title of a new magazine of the Soviet business community, which will be published next January. It is being created on the basis of the publication SOVETSKIY EXPORT which is scheduled to be closed.

"The issue of the new magazine and the closure of as viable and popular publication as SOVETSKIY EXPORT is linked, above all, with moves to reshape the Soviet Union's foreign economic ties", Nikolay Petrov, editor-in-chief of the new magazine, said in a TASS interview.

"The business magazine, which was published by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, limited itself to publications about Soviet exports and advertising Soviet-made goods. The range of issues to be covered by the new publication has been dramatically extended to include the development of shared production with foreign partners, joint enterprise and questions of foreign trade theory. Some of the magazine's pages will be allotted for advertising by foreign firms.

"We expect that starting April 1, 1989 in keeping with the Soviet Government's resolution, hundreds of new organisations and businesses in this country will enter the world market, the popularity of 'BUSINESS-CONTACT' will grow", the magazine's editor-in-chief said.

BUSINESS-CONTACT will be co-published by the Soviet advertising agency Vneshtorgreklama and the Austrian publishing house Globus six times a year in Russian, English, Spanish, Hungarian, Polish, Czech, German, and French and is to be distributed in 120 countries.

'Doveriye' Pacifist Group's Journal Distorts Fact

PM0602111189 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 89 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Colonel V. Gavrilenko article "Another Fiasco For the 'Doveriye' Group Activists Disseminating Their Latest Fabrication"—first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers will probably remember the articles "Forgery" (December 1987), "Once Again About 'Forgery'" (January 1988), and "Neither Mole-hills Nor Mountains" (May 1988), which dealt with the "Doveriye" [Trust] group and the malicious fabrications, slander, and unlikely stories spread by these so-called "champions" of "the establishment of East-West trust." The "Doveriye" group activists have declared that "missing" Muscovite Vsevolod Filipyev is a conscientious objector. However, the "missing" Filipyev was not only very soon "found," he also resolutely dissociated himself from the "Doveriye" group by exposing its activities in a documentary movie under the title "The 'Humanists,' Who Forfeited Trust," which was shown on Central Television.

After they had been put in the pillory, the pseudochampions of the ideas of pacifism kept a low profile for a while. You might have thought that their conscience had stirred.... But no, their silence was more a result of confusion over being caught red-handed juggling facts and spreading empty fabrications as a consequence of which they lost the trust of their Western patrons. Naturally, they want to regain their old positions. But how? There is no honest way—they have disgraced themselves too much in the eyes of Soviet people. There remains.... There remains the "Doveriye" group's old method—lies. And so, in a flimsy little journal compiled by the "Doveriye" group and intended above all for the West, there appeared an "Open Letter," signed by V. Filipyev and dated 4 July of last year. The self-same Filipyev who in May resolutely spoke out against the "Doveriye" group.

Introducing it, the "editorial office of the flimsy little journal," [quotation marks as published] represented by Khramov, Debryanskaya, and Rubchenko, the "heroes" of previous KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles and of the film "The 'Humanists' Who Forfeited Trust," emphasize "that the authenticity of the letter is not in doubt."

What is not in doubt is the libellous nature of this letter, concocted in the hope that Vsevolod Filipyev will not get to know about it, or if he does, that it will be too late. So what does the letter say? It opens as follows: Friends! I am happy, finally, to be able to communicate to you what's on my heart. My views and persuasions are unchanged. First of all, I would like to dispel the misgivings which you must have had after seeing the vile feature 'The "Humanists" Who Forefeited Trust.'" Then there follows a familiar selection of libel and the fruit of a sick imagination. For instance: "I was beaten up...;" "They drove me to a state of apathy and despair;" "I was close to suicide...;" "A special section of the military district dismissed me from college...;" "My service in the armed forces has reinforced my pacifist sentiments...;" "...I am still opposed to the Army because of my pacifist views and all my hopes hinge only on you!"

On learning what was published alongside his signature, Vsevolod Filipyev could not remain silent, of course. In two letters addressed to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, he rejects with angry indignation the slander invented in his name for the obvious purpose of whitewashing the "Doveriye" activists.

Having received these letters, we, too, deemed it impossible to remain silent, especially as the honor of a Soviet Army servicemen was at stake.

We will not cite the letter [singular as published] in full—it is long, and its authenticity is not in any doubt, as our correspondent in Lvov met with Vsevolod. We will just cite a few excerpts. The assessments which V. Filipyev makes of his "friends" in the "Doveriye" group correspond to those which he made earlier.

This is what he writes: "I declare that I did not write or send any letter to the 'Doveriye' group. It is lies from beginning to end.... Formerly too, at the time when I knew them, these people fabricated and dispatched forged documents to the West. In return they received clothes and souvenirs. The legitimate question may arise, how did I get involved with them?"—the letter says further. "I was attracted by the slogan 'Mutual trust will disarm the world' and by beautiful words about pacifism.... It was painful to find out later that behind these words were the deceitful faces of enemies of our country.... They worship the West because that is where their patrons are whom they serve with their petty intrigues. And with outright juggling of facts. As is the case with 'my' letter.... It is true that I was dismissed from the college after completing the first year. But it was not because of my past involvement with the 'Doveriye' group, as they are claiming, but on my own initiative. I simply came to the conclusion that I had made the wrong choice, that the military profession is not for me. I am confident that I can be of use to the motherland elsewhere."

"At present," V. Filipyev goes on, "I am doing normal service in one of the units of the Carpathian Military District. I am confident that I will finish my term just as normally, thus discharging my constitutional duty to the motherland. I have severed my links with the 'Doveriye' group once and for all and, I emphasize, it was for political reasons. I am an ardent supporter of restructuring and I assure you that the 'Doveriye' activists are its enemies. They are trying to slander and distort its meaning and, taking advantage of glasnost and the new opportunities for openly expressing any opinion, they distort facts and spawn fabrications, discrediting in this way the very concept of glasnost."

It is possible to draw a line here. The "Doveriye" activists' latest soap bubble has burst. It has burst because the overwhelming majority of young men in our country serve in the armed forces with dignity and honor. We are rightly proud of them. And as for the slanderers from the "Doveriye" group, let those who "called the tune" sort out these people who are blinded by hatred of our country. And a last point. Having decided once again to expose the true face of these agents provocateurs who have donned the garb of champions of trust between East and West, we would like young people who are being misled by their blatant lies and involved in their evil doings, just like Vsevolod Filipyev was at one time, to take a close look at this face.

Anti-Semitism, 'Mutual Hatred' Hinder Democracy

PM0702160289 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 6, 5 Feb 89 p 15

[Yevgeniy Yevtushenko article: "False Alarm. Catchwords from an Old Trunk"]

[Text] For a very long time, ever since the case of "the doctor's plot" when anti-Semitic sentiments were encouraged in every possible way, I haven't seen the notorious catchphrase: "No to Homeless Cosmopolitans". However a poster with this slogan was brandished hysterically in the stands of the Krylya Sovetov Palace of Sports on January 23, where a meeting of the editorial boards and permament contributors of the magazines MOSKVA, MOLODAYA GVARDIYA and ROMAN-GAZETA with their readers took place as part of the Russia's Voices and Colours festival. As a matter of fact, the Pamyat society also took part, because the hall was decorated with the slogan "The Pamyat Movement Will Win" and a red banner on which the hammer and sickle was replaced with St. George the Victorious. St. George the Victorious on a standard in the hands of the defenders of Russia was a symbol of Russian courage. But let us not forget that the same St. George the Victorious in the hands of the Black Hundreds was a symbol of pogroms. The point is not in St. George the Victorious as such but in who is implied by the serpent—a real enemy or one that has been invented simply to justify the need to brandish spears.

So, who were the serpents mentioned in the speeches of a number of the speakers? There was a whole menagerie of them—a fantastic writhing ball of creatures with venomous stings—Trotskiy, Sverdlov, Bukharin, Kaganovich, Zaslavskaya, Aganbegyan, Korotich, B. Vasilyev, Nuykin, Shmelev Strelyanyy, even US President Bush. The magazines ZNAMYA and OGONEK, and the newspaper MOSCOW NEWS were depicted as reptiles cringing towards the West.

I understand that neither the chairman nor the Presidium can be fully responsible either for the conduct of the audience or for every statement made from the rostrum. But if the chairman and the presidium do not react to insulting speeches or to acts of savagery, they thereby share part of the responsibility. As, for example, the speech of Vyacheslav Gorbachev, deputy editor-in-chief of Molodaya Gvardiya, who intended to incite anti-Semitism by simply stating certain statistics—how many Jewish academicians there were in the country, how many Jewish writers, how many Jews have a higher education, etc. In this context I remembered a story by one Soviet conductor about a chat he had with an American conductor. The Soviet conductor, to disprove the rumours about anti-Semitism allegedly still current in the USSR, said: "For example, in our orchestra which is on tour here in the United States, seven persons are Jews...." The American conductor sadly noticed in reply: "You know—I've never counted how many Jews there are in my ochestra...."

Here are some entries I made in my notebook: "It is, of course, possible to take different attitudes towards the yellow OGONEK...." Shouts: "Down with the yellow press! Shame!" "Today Korotich is in America. He has been invited by Bush....They are part of the same ruling clique." A shout: "Don't let him back!" "Attempts are being made to confuse us by denigrating Stalin.... Yes, of course, Stalin made some mistakes, but..."(stormy applause, muffling the timid "but" and developing into an ovation).

Someone might want to consign the battle raging there to the realm of literary battles which have rightly been deplored. I don't recommend this. The cited facts have no relation whatsoever to literature: the fomenting of hostility is a political phenomenon.

I had a queer feeling, as if I had already seen this narcotic intoxication with its own shouts. I remembered, incidentally, the "tusovka"-gathering [allusion unknown] on Hitler's birthday a few years ago in Pushkin Square, the rhythmic movement of teenagers following a herd instinct. Haven't these teenagers of yesterday taken up chauvinist slogans today in search of a new, more legal herd instinct? Chauvinism is the cheapest way to feel superior not due to intellect, talent, or hard work, and not by spiritual kindness, but simply due to one's nationality. The slogans, taken out of mothballs, can be turned into a fighting arsenal of reaction. Perestroyka is an attempt at spiritual and economic emancipation. But it seems that base passions, leading not to mutual understanding but to mutual hatred, also have been released.

I am against breaking up the organization by force using self-appointed "limbs of the law". But there are cases when it's impossible to keep silent and there is a need to have recourse to moral arguments. It's impossible to allow democracy to be used against democracy, and glasnost to be used to stifle glasnost. Much in history will not be clear to us until all the archives have finally been declassified. But one horrible crime against the people have been forever declassified—the fomenting of mutual hatred with the help of unproved accusations. It was the fomenting of mutual hatred that once led to the millions of corpses which for so long barred our people's road to democracy.

Soviet and American film makers have recognized the need to stop creating an "enemy image" on the screen. But, regrettably, we still have enough fans of the "enemy image" who now look for it in their own compatriots.

At that meeting one could hear it said: "Listen—the people in the square are ringing the alarm." As history has shown there is nothing more despicable than attempts by a group of people to speak on behalf of the people while denying this right to others. To call for restoring to the Church of Christ the Saviour without observing Christian tolerance is to destroy the temple of hope for peace on earth.

We must restore all the desecrated national Russian shrines. But let us not forget that among our "national shrines" are also kindness, hospitality and universal responsiveness. Russian patriotism means Pushkin and Tolstoy, not the compilers of the Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion.

It is not the people that are ringing the alarm—it is those who wish to monopolize Russian patriotism that are luring them with a false alarm.

Veterans of Afghan War Need Understanding

PM0802152989 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Feb 89 Second Edition pp 1, 5

[Dispatch by own special correspondent Igor Kots: "An Open Gaze"]

[Excerpts] Termez—Private Gennadiy Plotnikov was blown up just before leaving Afghanistan. He was blown up stupidly, through lack of caution—while out on a detail he picked up a silvery trinket from the ground and it suddenly burst into flames. Gena has a poor memory of how he was taken to the guard post, an armored personnel carrier was called up, and at the medical battalion his severed fingers were stitched and he was transferred to Termez hospital. The diagnosis: A deep wound of the eyeball with a large quantity of foreign bodies present. [passage omitted]

He served in a subunit which serviced and refueled the convoys going to and from Kabul. On the night of 10 August last year Gena jumped on hearing a tremendous bang—the dushmans had hit an artillery dump during shelling. Amidst the confusion of shells exploding and flying in all directions Gena rushed to his gasoline truck and drove it out of the parking lot and far away. The tank behind him contained 2 tonnes of fuel—one shell would have been enough. Is it possible that the peasant lad with the light brown hair and clear, sunburnt complexion really did not not consider this?

"Tell me, why you were in Afghanistan?

"I was carrying out my internationalist duty."

"Don't get me wrong, Gena, but that is a stock answer..."

"I was eager to get here. I saw all the broadcasts on television. I wrote to the military commissariat."

"Why?"

"I wanted to test myself, to see what I was capable of."

"And the result?"

"I now know: I am capable of many things..."

Who is it, then, sitting in front of me? A wise, experienced front-line soldier who has stared death in the face and who risked his life during a nighttime shelling when he did what is not given to everyone to do? Or a silly boy who unthinkingly bent down to pick up an infernal booby trap, who reveres the street code of honor and is ready to dash even again to a friend's aid in the war which maimed him, even if it means taking on the devil? Maturity, childishness, naivety, courage—what kind of character is he? Should we be proud of him? Feel sorry for him? Certainly we should accept him for what he is.

I do not know whether such a character is typical. Lieutenant Kolonel Vladimir Yefimovich Melnikov, chief of the Termez hospital, who has seen all sorts, told me a lot about the charges he sees month after month. These include those who are embittered, those who have cracked up or withdrawn into themselves, and the calm, sensible private Gena Plotnikov, not the most serious case, as they say. Yet I will venture to say that he is a typical case because Gena, like many, very many other Afghan veterans will have a tough time in civilian life. There are already quite enough examples. Let us not forget when we meet these last Afghan veterans that they have already long been among us. Our newspaper has already written many times about the callousness and indifference shown them. But then the factor of the continuing war, which was right in front of us, kept the the bureaucrats and louts in check at least a little. But the war will be over in a few days' time....

The problem does not lie just in those dramatic situations where different moral attitudes may come into confrontation. There are questions that are purely practical and lie unseen, hidden amidst current concerns. Doctors, for example, are extremely concerned over the fate of most of their past and present patients. Today two-thirds of the patients in the Termez Hospital have infectious diseases. Jaundice, typhus, malaria, measles, and diphtheria, that have been brought from "over there." V. Melnikov is convinced that those with these diseases will find it tough going for about 3 years. Recurrences, very serious complications, and invalidity cannot be ruled out. Yet no benefits at all have been established for these lads, as opposed to Afghan war invalids....

A small detail, perhaps, one that distracts from the truly historic events that Termez and the whole country are now experiencing, but "details" are seen quite differently when close up. Perhaps we hear scathing attacks on our internationalist servicemen because the overwhelming majority of us are unfamiliar with the "details" that make up the essence of the bloody 9-year-long war. If we knew the whole truth, perhaps we would not hear the cry "Oh, another one!" in the waiting lines when a "participant's" card is caught sight of; fewer lives would be broken; and the incident which I witnessed on Monday during a rally involving several thousand people at the border bridge over the Amudarya would not have occurred. Everyone was awaiting the return of a large "planned" convoy. But before it arrived, a small group of around 20 assault troops crossed the bridge on foot. They were greeted and presented with flowers. They then set off for distant Termez along the highway, past endless rows of empty buses and vehicles awaiting the rally participants. It occurred neither to the organizers nor to the traffic police to fix up some transport for the lads out of the dozens, perhaps even hundreds of vehicles there. The soldiers soon disapppeared out of sight...

It is not at all my intention to idealize the Afghan veterans. They include, just like "in the world" as a whole, very different people. But for 9 long years—and perhaps we have not even considered this—they have shouldered the people's main anguish. That anguish is now returning to us, reflected in the armor of the tanks and on the faces of the soldiers. Let us not avert our gaze.

"Gena, what most worries you now with civilian life ahead?

"I do not know who I will be or what I will do."

"What can society do for people like you?"

"The main thing it can undoubtedly do is to understand."

New State Honorary Titles Approved

LD0802161589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has approved a clause on new honorary titles: Merited Industrial Worker of the USSR, Merited Construction Worker of the USSR, Merited Transport Worker of the USSR, Merited Post Office Worker of the USSR, and Merited Armed Forces Specialist of the USSR. They can be conferred on highly qualified workers for outstanding production achievements in the corresponding branch of the national economy, and on servicemen for outstanding services to the Soviet state in strengthening the country's defense capacity and for great skill in professional activity.

Correction to Lithuanian Lawyers Form Union

LD0902140089

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Lithuanian Lawyers Form Union Based on 'Openness'", published in the 7 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 63-64: page 64, column one, paragraph three, last sentence: ...with law preservation, may also become members of this union." (supplying omitted passage)

Economic

Volga-Chogray Canal Decision Reported

PM1002111589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by own special correspondent Ye. Manucharova: "End of the Volga-Chogray Canal, or Commentary on a Decision for Which We Waited for 5 Years"]

[Text] A long-waited event has come about: The Volga-Chogray Canal project has been officially deemed inexpedient. The committee of experts of the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Gosstroy has decided "TO HALT WORK ON CONSTRUCTING THE VOLGA-CHOGRAY CANAL." The need for this has at last also been firmly stated by the Academy of Sciences. The USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium has twice discussed the expediency of the canal and also recognized that the construction of the canal must now be "CONSIDERED UNFEASIBLE."

The objections of the state expert report specialists have been known since 1984—for 5 years. But they are only now leading to practical results. G. Romanenko, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, told us that the committee is preparing a ruling to stop excavation work on the canal. The USSR Industrial Construction Bank will presumably take measures, and the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources will not receive the billions which it has requested for the canal and add them to the 50 million that have already been thrown away.

Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources leaders have acknowledged the correctness of the state expert report's main conclusion (it has also been confirmed by decision of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium) that THE PROJECT IS NOT BACKED BY A SCIENTIFIC FEASIBILITY STUDY. The canal has led to environmental catastrophe in the Caspian and dramatically exacerbated the "strained environmental situation on the Lower Volga."

The Gosplan state expert report has analyzed three Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources studies involving this great Russian river: Canals projects (the Volga-Chogray canal and the second Volga-Don) and the water balance (the state and potential of the river and the needs of the population and economic sectors for it).

The experts have not accepted any of the three Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources plans. You can already judge their low standard by the fact that the department was unable (in preparing for the state expert report session) to answer very important questions in the expert report, without an understanding of which it is impossible to formulate or examine the water balance. Why did the study not take account of the poor quality of the water? Why is it proposed to leave the most important consumers without water in a dry year? Why was the well-being of the Caspian not taken into account? And finally why did the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources not agree on the water balance with either the regions or other ministries? The department was unable to supply persuasive answers. Just as it was unable to prove its basic premise that the Volga has "surplus water." The experts' conclusion reads: "A SHORTAGE OF WATER RESOURCES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED."

The fact that the Volga-Chogray Canal balance and project have been rejected is no surprise. Gosplan Chairman Yu. Maslyukov told a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet that more than half the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources plans are returned to it. This amount of rejected work causes specialists indignation. You see their patience dwindling from one session to another. At the last session, in January, matters reached the point where it was proposed that the conclusion on the Ministry's plans be sent to the USSR Prosecutor's Office.

However, the department has not listened to nor heeded the experts' arguments. Moreover, its leaders continued repeating at the session: Put off the decision for 2 months, the financing of the canal cannot be cut off before March. The ministry has promised by that time to "provide feasibility studies of everything" and "rectify everything." This deadline has surprised even experts who have seen a thing or two. In the 7 years of the project's existence the ministry was unable to carry out even the expert report's main demand that a feasibility study be be drawn up. What will 2 months produce? New expenditure? The opportunity to get around the state expert report, as has happened?

By all accounts, the ministry does not think that science has the final say or that bans last forever. Alas, there are grounds for this. After all, with regard to the Volga-Chogray Canal the state experts' report did not accept the version of the resolution recorded as a "dissenting opinion" by six of the more resolute-minded experts. They proposed formulating the decision in the following way: "The canal project is not backed by a feasibility study, is economically ineffective and ecologically dangerous, and does not therefore meet the state's long-term strategy of protecting the environment and water resources. The canal project should be turned down and work stopped."

However, the experts (while being convinced of the antiscientific nature of the very idea of a Volga-Chogray Canal) did not reject the whole project completely (as the Academy did, incidentally), but RETURNED IT FOR FURTHER WORK to the very same Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources.

What, then, was behind this half-hearted decision? According to the experts themselves, it is the narrowness of their mandate that is responsible: They assess only the quality of a definite, specific plan, treating it as a given. And even when there are alternative decisions (as in the resolution on the Volga-Chogray Canal), they are merely referred to rather than examined.

It is only possible to adopt the best decisions when you can compare several scientifically studied alternatives. And they will be quickly carried out only if the role of independent experts is enhanced and the status of the state expert report is elevated. Until this is the case there can be no certainty that the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources will not continue constructing the canal or start another that is equally inadvisable. And in circumvention of government decisions. The implementation of the plan to divert the waters of the northern rivers was prohibited, nevertheless the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources has begun constructing the canal, embarking on fragments of the diversion scheme. Already it has excavated trenches four times greater in size than that permitted in the experimental section. The department is convinced that it can get its own way by gradually matching individual moves with individual organizations. These tactics have already visited many misfortunes upon the people. Going along with these tactics is tantamount to deliberately embarking on environmental catastrophe.

It is very important that the implementation of the decisions should not conceal any possibility of reverting to this pernicious project. We await the withdrawal of earth-moving equipment from the afflicted region....

*Roundtable Discusses Problem of Unemployment

WA1828006I Moscow TRUD in Russian
7 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Yu. Krasnopolskiy: "Man and Work: Finding One Another"]

[Text] For more than a half century—since the middle of the thirties when it was declared that there was no more unemployment in the country—we have been satisfied with this optimistic formula. Although things were far from that simple. There have always been people who were not working for one reason or another. They exist today as well. "Idleness," "labor surplus," and other terms invented by science do not exhaust the essence of the phenomenon. Its scope, of course, is incommensurable with what is happening in the West. But here is something to think about: Labor productivity in our country is less by a factor of 2.5 than, say, in the United States, and the work that is performed by two people there, in our country takes—five....

Under the new management conditions there is a reduction of management personnel and collectives are working with fewer people. But at the same time not a single person should go without work. Here our position is firm. But is our economy as a whole and our labor agencies in particular prepared for the changes that have already begun and are gathering force? How in general do we envision the rearrangement of the country's labor potential? This was the subject published recently in TRUD entitled "They have Cut Back. What Next?" and the discussion of the subject was continued in a roundtable meeting conducted by the editorial staffs of the newspaper TRUD and the journal SOTSIALISTICHESKIY TRUD. Its participants were scholars, trade union workers, and specialists. And—in absentia—the readers: those who have had occasion to encounter the phenomenon, which is real, although we are not fully aware of it—the absence of work.

The "Average" Temperature

Yu. Yakovets, professor, department head of the Academy of the National Economy:

What is our employment situation like? It is very complicated. In economically developed regions (the Baltic area and Belorussia, for example) the birth rate is low and consequently the level of employment of the population is high. In Central Asia the growth of the population is high but the economy is less developed. Tajikistan, for example, has the highest birth rate and the lowest per capita national income.

What is the reason for this? There are many people who are not working. In our day we were not concerned about a moderate, socially substantiated approach to the development of the region's economy with its specific peculiarities: families with many children, a low level of migration of the population, and so forth. We constructed giants of industry while what we needed were small enterprises located as close as possible to the places of residence. The Nurekskaya GES and the aluminum plant are good and necessary, but they are just a facade. Behind the facade 27 percent of the able-bodied population are unemployed: every fourth person—even a capitalist would not dream of this. Regions with a "labor surplus" are a direct reproach and problem number one for the country's Gosplan, the local planning agencies, and the Union and territorial labor agencies. We need an efficient program of priority directions for the development of their economies, taking all peculiarities and the way of life into account. We understand this, but so far we do not have a unified statewide program of action.

Ye. Antosenkov, professor, director of the Scientific Research Institute of Labor:

This is not exactly so. We are dealing with this and we have theoretical and practical developments. They are not being realized and that is the problem. About 10 years ago we submitted our suggestions to the country's government. What were they concerned with? The orientation of the economies of these regions toward labor-intensive, energy-intensive productions, the development of home labor, and so forth. Then I was told that A. N. Kosygin was interested in them but then, apparently, he did not get around to us and the matter was dropped. The favorite of our statistics, the average indicator, prevailed. Of course, if we "put together," say, the indicators of Tajikistan and Russia, and then divide them in half, the picture will be almost perfect. But this reminds me of the anecdote about the doctor who reported to the various "instances": the average temperature of our patients is normal....

Is it possible to hire women with many children to work in the plants in Turkmenia if the level of provision of children's preschool institutions is barely half of the Union average? This aspect—the social one—is probably the most important now. It is this turn toward social issues that is clearly designated in the plans for the country's development for this year and the future. It is necessary for that which is earmarked in the plans to be realized more rapidly.

There is also another problem: moral. In the editorial mail there are many letters about "superfluous" people who have become this way exclusively because of life circumstances. Let us say that an elderly person finds it much more difficult to find employment than his younger colleague does. Here is what is written, for example, by P. Timchenko from Kharkov Oblast:

"I am 58 years old. I was released from my job to care for my sick mother, and when she died I was unable to find another job anywhere: They blame staff cutbacks. And just imagine—I had to resort to making moonshine just to feed myself. I myself do not drink...."

Or another letter:

"When I was on leave to care for my child my position as an engineer was eliminated and they offered me the job of a cleaning lady. I had to agree to it: they will not hire you anywhere if you have a child. I wash the floors at night so that my colleagues will not see me. It is a disgrace: after all, I am an engineer.

N. Shchebbenok, Maritime Kray"

Can we fail to take notice of cases like this?

A Mop for the Engineer

Yu. Tigalev, sector chief of the division for mass production work and wages of the AUCCTU:

We say that everyone has the right to work but not to a specific job. If the job he wants is unavailable, he must take another one according to his capabilities. But this brings up a sea of new problems. It is not permitted to fire a woman with small children—her position is eliminated. In terms of form everything is legal—they have offered her another job and she has agreed to take it, but what about what is really happening? There are social guarantees in the Constitution, but in life—alas, not always. Trade unions here frequently back away from their protective functions and business executives take advantage of the moment to get rid of "undesirables." So far these are only individual cases, but when the economy is completely changed over to the new conditions, the cutbacks will begin on a large scale.

The labor agencies have an immense amount of responsibility here. They must take charge of the situation and efficiently reorient people for different kinds of employment. This is inevitable, but I do not think that we are ready for this yet. Workers are being released at many enterprises but nobody knows where or how they find new jobs.... It seems to me that it is necessary to take a close look at the way we are implementing the decree adopted a year ago by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU concerning providing for effective employment of the population, improvement of the system of labor placement, and strengthening of social guarantees for the workers. Is this not a case where the decision is good but its implementation is absolutely unacceptable?

E. Bobrovnikov, director of the Moscow City Center for Labor Placement:

I disagree. We have the information and we can predict the situation. But our predictions are alarming. We are probably not doing enough work here, and not only with respect to this matter. I think that a number of points of this decree need to be seriously amended.

Here I disagree with the idea expressed in the article entitled "They Have Cut Back. What Next?" to the effect that labor placement centers do not receive profit because they have just recently begun to introduce khozraschet and do not have experience working under these conditions. I do not think that changing the centers over to khozraschet will solve our problems. But the main thing is that it is reflected mainly in the position of the released specialists and subsequently in the position of skilled workers. The article discusses the "Moscow situation" with respect to the release of specialists. It is indeed indicative, for ministries, departments, and other management agencies are concentrated here. I shall reveal it more broadly, with figures. In the first stage they eliminated the jobs of 40,100 workers. Most of them were placed in their specialties at enterprises and organizations of the same ministries. This exhausted their possibilities—but there is a new wave of cutbacks in the offing, and then the people will come to us.

What do we suggest? Jobs. And, probably, many will wish to be retrained—for there are occupations that are just as good as any others in terms of both pay and prestige. But they are not indicated in our card catalog. We now have 102,000 vacancies—but the majority of them are "unprestigious": guards, loaders, cleaning ladies.... Is it turning out that the enterprises do not need skilled personnel? They are needed, but these positions are not included in the reports; the employers prefer to find their own candidates. After all, we are on khozraschet and we spend money on each worker we hire in our area. And the enterprises are counting their pennies.

We end up with an unequal partnership: we depend much more on them than they do on us. This is now leading to a situation where the central agencies, not knowing the need for skilled personnel, are deprived of the opportunity to plan their work and prepare a base for retraining people. In the future we shall be completely unable to offer them a job that corresponds to the level of their education and intellect. Therefore, while it is still not too late and there is still the possibility, we must change the central agencies over to budget support. We are not a commercial firm, and our main goal is not profit but to provide people with work that is worthy of them and necessary to the society.

Yes, khozraschet is the behest of the times. But are we not going to the extreme by making anything and everything dependent on the profit that is obtained? Will the labor placement centers even be able to take care of themselves if their main partners—the enterprises—under the conditions of khozraschet are, frankly, not very interested in paying for their services? One can understand the position of the enterprises. Is it fair for them to have to pay the state like this for labor resources—why must they pay twice? Clearly, here begins the search for various kinds of ways of avoidance, and this can lead to nothing good.

But what is the solution? It would seem that it lies in a unified state program which includes payment for compensations, retraining, and job placement. This has been tried. Hungary, for example, has formed a special "employment fund" in the amount of about 1.5 billion forints. What is this money used for? For running the labor placement centers, retraining people, and creating new jobs. And also payment of compensations.

The worker is warned 3 months in advance that they plan to eliminate his job. He works and looks for another job at the same time. Let us say that he has not found one. Then for another half year (without working) he continues to be on the roster of the enterprise but he receives his compensation from the "employment fund." Let us say that this amount of time is not enough either. Then he can receive compensation for another half year although, true, in a lesser amount.

The total is 15 months instead of the 2-3 months we have here. The time period is more than adequate. Not everything is simple here, and there is room for interpretation. But now we wish to focus attention on something else: people are not kept within a strict framework which forces them to take any old job once the time period expires and their work tenure is interrupted. Another special feature is that the state takes responsibility for finding a job for the worker. It probably has greater possibilities than does the enterprise, which will still think: after all, is it worthwhile to reduce the number of personnel and take on such concerns and expenditures?

Perhaps the Hungarian or any other model will not suit us in pure form—we have certain conditions and they have others. But, probably, while developing our own experience it would be worthwhile to look attentively at the experience of other countries as well.

And the last thing: about those who remain. The first "wave" of cutbacks sharply changed the composition of the working staff, especially in management agencies. Mothers with small children, pregnant women, and disabled people in the ministries and departments now comprise about 30 percent of the overall number. If things continue in this direction, who will control the economy—nursing mothers? They undoubtedly require special social protection. But this means the possibility of a broad selection of jobs—with a convenient schedule and more favorable working conditions. I quite agree that, for example, the variant of working at home would be for many people not only possible, but even preferable. But we must think of a way to organize this without detriment to either the people or the cause.

According to the Law, According to Justice

"I fell into one of the 'cutbacks' and found another job. The pay was less there, but that was only half of the problem. I was the last on the waiting list for an apartment while at my previous job I was third. How can this be?

R. Gulyayev, Sverdlovsk"

V. Shankin, sector chief of the division for mass production work and wages of the AUCCTU:

It seems to me that the problem of social guarantees is the most complicated in the currently existing mechanism for redistribution of the country's labor potential. So far we are only searching for approaches to it, but the sore points have already made themselves very apparent. Here, for example, on the one hand, we are speaking about the problem of job cutbacks while on the other hand we have a large number of vacancies. According to our data, there are about 1.5 million of them in the country. What is keeping us from filling them? We have already discussed it: the lack of prestige, difficult and monotonous work, and low pay. The same cleaning ladies, loaders, and hospital attendants, people who work on conveyers, people who work in consumer services, and so forth. Who wants to be reoriented for these jobs if people do not want to come here?

Recently a group of school children were given a tour of AvtoVAZ in order to familiarize them with the production and attract them to the profession in the future. And after seeing what was what, they declared: we shall not come here. Even those who before this excursion intended to go to work there. What can we do so that the people themselves will come here? There is one possibility: expand the sphere of social benefits. Wages? Yes, probably, although that is probably not the main thing. It is necessary to revise the system of leave and pension support for people in these occupations. More money should be invested in automation and mechanization of production and in protection of labor, and more passes should be given—in a word, it is necessary to compensate for the costs of this work. Otherwise there will continue to be an imbalance and shortage of labor resources while there continues to be a surplus of unemployed people. What do I think should be done first here? With the help of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, and the AUCCTU, we must establish a list of jobs that people are least willing to take, especially youth. We must know what these jobs are, where they are, and how many of them there are. And we must create additional conditions here that would attract workers. And wherever possible these jobs should be eliminated altogether.

I. Zaslavskiy, chief of the sector for problems of labor and redistribution of labor resources of the Scientific Research Institute of Labor:

The social role of the state should not be limited to compensations and retraining people for jobs in which they might not be interested at all. The country's government, the state institutions, the ministries, and the enterprises must take into account such a phenomenon as temporary unemployment. We did this in the middle of the twenties and we had a fairly good labor placement system. There were labor exchanges who were well aware of the capabilities of one or another person who needed work. They created temporary jobs, including through the organization of cooperatives. Today, too, the exchanges could take over functions of temporary job placement of people during the period when they are searching for permanent work.

In such a difficult problem which affects people's destinies and job cuts and placement of workers, justice can be observed only if everyone is offered full guarantees that their constitutional rights and standard of living will be maintained. But is this mechanism efficient enough? As today's discussion has shown, certainly not in all ways.

For example, there is the apartment problem.

According to the existing policy, questions of improving living conditions of the released worker should be resolved (with the exception of individual cases) by the administration and the trade union committee in conjunction with the technical supervisory service at the new place of work. And they are the ones that resolve them but, as our editorial mail shows, mainly in a negative way. There are not many who wish to turn their place on the waiting list for housing over to a new worker. They would rather not hire a person for work than allow him to "bump" one of "their own" on the waiting list. The problem of social justice is especially acute here: are we not creating a situation in which those who need housing will experience twice as many difficulties in job placement?

What variants are possible here? Well, for example: a person who has been hired for work takes the place on the waiting list for housing that he held previously. But he does not crowd out his "competitor." They have equal rights and the local soviets (or enterprises) in this case search for a possibility of granting housing to both at the same time. And only if such a possibility cannot be found is preference given to the one who has the greater need for housing. Another variant: there is a separate waiting list in the ispolkom of the local soviet.

Various variants are possible, but one thing is obvious: the problems are difficult and they must be solved. Much will have to be worked out, changed, and improved on the run. And it seems that those ideas and suggestions that were made by specialists and practical workers at the roundtable meeting will be examined attentively by the country's legislative agencies, state control agencies, and branch staffs—all on whom the success of this exceptionally important matter depends.

From the editors: Also participating in the roundtable meeting were Doctor of Legal Sciences, Prof Yu. Orlovskiy; chief of the Main Administration for Labor and Social Problems of the Moscow Gorispolkom, V. Skitev; deputy chief of the administration of labor resources and personnel training of the USSR Goskomtrud [State

Committee for Labor and Social Problems], P. Rudev; director of the information computer center of the Georgian SSR Goskomtrud, L. Litovskiy; deputy director of the republic center for labor placement, retraining, and occupational orientation of the population of the Kazakh SSR Goskomtrud, A. Zuykov; chief of the republic labor placement bureau of the Latvian SSR Goskomtrud, S. Blazhevich; director of the Moscow Oblast labor placement center, A. Arzamastsev; chief of the sector for labor potential of the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences, doctor of economic sciences, Prof I. Maslova; senior scientific associate of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the USSR MVD, V. Fokin; and chief of the main administration for labor and social problems of the Moscow Oblispolkom, V. Rushev. The editors thank all the participants in the meeting. We shall take their ideas and suggestions into account in the future and certain participants in the discussion will publish their works in TRUD.

Shmelev Gives Views, Predictions on Renewal

AU0902162689 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 8 Feb 89 p 4

[Interview with Nikolay Shmelev, doctor of economic sciences, Soviet economist and writer, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO Moscow correspondent Dimitur Gornenski, in Moscow: "Answers to Seven Questions on Renewal"; date not given]

[Text] The name of Nikolay Shmelev, doctor of economic sciences, became popular a few years ago. The appearance of his very first acid, analytical article on the problems of Soviet economic development drew the public's attention and established him as one of the most prominent representatives of economic journalism. His next article, which appeared in NOVIY MIR, was also on the most topical issues of restructuring, as were several interviews and statements he made in the Soviet and foreign mass media. During this period, his works of fiction were also published: the novel "Pashka's House" and a number of short stories and tales.

His views as a trained economist represent one of the most radical trends in contemporary Soviet economic thought. It is easy and pleasant to talk to him, because he never evades a question, and he expresses himself without any pseudoscientific haziness. On one occasion, I was invited to a meeting with him in which well-known economic observers from U.S. newspapers and periodicals were also taking part. They hastened to put the most awkward question possible to him: What was the attitude of the Soviet party and state leadership to his economic articles? Nikolay Shmelev, who works as a section chief in the United States and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and therefore has a deep knowledge not only of the U.S. economy but also of the tricks of American journalists, received the question with a smile, but did not avoid the challenge:

"As far as I know," he responded, "both of my NOVIY MIR articles are known to our party and state leadership. It cannot be said that there is only one attitude to the viewpoints set out in the articles. I will never forget the occasion in 1987 when Mikhail Gorbachev expressed agreement with the analysis contained in my first article. He did not accept all the conclusions, but one can understand this, as he carries on his shoulders the immense responsibility for the fate of our development, whereas I am simply a researcher. For him it is easy to state his views, even when these appear quite extreme. In any event, such encouragement must be valued. I think that the second article also touched upon problems that disturb many people. As evidence of their topicality, I may refer to the decision to substantially amend the USSR Supreme Soviet decree on taxing the incomes of cooperative workers."

Our 2-hour discussion was not long enough to exhaust the wealth of topical issues that form the subject of his research work. Unfortunately, it is impossible within the small space allowed in the newspaper to state his replies in full. The solution is to present his answers in the form of a shorthand transcript, compressed as much as possible, but without glossing over his acute assessments, statements, and conclusions.

[Gornenski] How would you sum up the strategic importance of the 19th CPSU conference?

[Shmelev] Without trying to be exhaustive, I would merely point out its particular importance for implementing extremely necessary changes in three sectors of economic policy:

First, for restricting as far as possible the economic functions of the party leadership.

Second, for abolishing the artificial barriers that are holding up the application of the new methods and forms of economic activity—most of all, the ministerial instructions that set up obstacles to the independence of the enterprises.

Third, for eliminating, or at least lessening, the administrative pressure that delays progress in agriculture, including application of the forms of leasing.

[Gornenski] What do you regard as the criteria for economic progress?

[Shmelev] I know that my views may appear excessively categorical, but I am personally convinced that what the USSR needs now is not high rates of economic growth, but something completely different. If we now had a zero growth rate, this would be a blessing for us, not a calamity. We need high economic growth rates only in the new technology branches. In the United States, these branches represent no more than 8 percent [of the national economy], while in the USSR their share is less. In all the other branches, it would be a good thing for the growth rates to be negative. I will give an elementary example that even nonprofessionals can understand: We produce 800 million pairs of shoes, and import 100 million pairs in addition, yet it is a problem to buy something decent. A vast part of this production is doomed to gather dust in the warehouses and be converted into worthless waste that no one wants. The United States manufactures 300 million pairs, and this output, together with imports, proves to be completely adequate; it is no problem to buy a fine pair of shoes there. This means that it is of no benefit to us to increase shoe production even by a single pair. We must reduce the quantity and try to manufacture good products of the required quality. I would be very pleased as an economist if this branch had a negative growth rate. In such a case, we should regard the fall in production as a sign of recovery of the economy, of its rejection of senseless quantitative growth that fails to take account of the main point, namely whether the production is needed or not.

[Gornenski] Why do we need a headquarters staff for the economy?

[Shmelev] No society can live without a general staff for the economy. In our conditions, this is represented by the central planning organ. The only question is what its direct operative functions should be. These must clearly be reduced to the minimum. Its functions will inevitably always include the development and planning of strategy and the allocation of nationwide capital investments. In my view, it would be ideal if, by the mid-nineties, our centralized planning were to limit its functions to about 25 percent of the production output, while the remaining 75 percent would be exposed to freely operating market influences. This is the line that our state is following now. As for the future, I am inclined to forecast that the state orders will constitute a fluctuating, adjustable relative share, depending on the priorities of the economic strategy that will be materially implemented by the contract system. In addition, it is clear that the defense industry cannot fail to remain under the state's absolute control. One should expect that a more determined step will be made in this direction this year, in 1989.

[Gornenski] Can one get by without ministries?

[Shmelev] I often have to repeat that, although my views may appear extreme, they are dictated by the logic of the main trend in our current development. It is precisely for this reason that I assert that we do not need so many economic ministries. We only need one ministry: a ministry of industry and trade. My chief argument is that these bureaucratic "caps" do not carry any responsibility for their decisions and actions.

In essence, this is a question of the functions and content of the relations between the ministries, on the one hand, and the enterprises and associations, on the other. So far, a minority of economic figures and scientists hold the view that the Soviet ministries are unnecessary.

[Gornenski] is unemployment possible in the USSR?

[Shmelev] In the foreseeable future of several decades I see no danger of the emergence of problems such as absolute surplus of manpower and absolute lack of work places. I cannot predict what will happen by the end of the next century. What is the foundation of my conviction that the emergence of such problems is impossible? Many people probably know that the existence of unutilized production capacities is one of our economy's most acute problems. Some 80 percent of our industry's capacities are not fully utilized, while in some branches this figure is 30 to 60 percent. In many branches the machines and equipment are functioning on the one shift principle (generally, for the entire country the shift coefficient is now 1.2). The lack of manpower is one of the most serious reasons for this situation. In fact, this problem has a discreet and covert character, because the opposite phenomenon— the need to get rid of excessive manpower—exists in many enterprises. However, this immediately turns into a serious social problem. The great task now is to combine the manpower with the unutilized capacities. This is the principle problem of our economy in everything related to employment.

On the other hand, the sphere of services in our country is still in its childhood. Tens of millions, rather, millions of qualified workers are needed for its comprehensive development.

Another complex problem is the excessive absolute and relative share of women employed in the national economy. According to the most recent data I have, some 94 percent of the women capable of working are employed. This evokes many serious problems related to the well-being of the families, and to raising and educating children. In addition, many of them are performing difficult jobs that often are harmful to one's health. If we want to be just in our assessment, we must admit that for us this is an acute social problem.

The analysis of this situation shows that only difficulties such as temporary and structural unemployment related to the disappearance of old and the appearance of new branches, and retraining workers and specialists are possible in the USSR. Our society is capable of guaranteeing the social protection of the citizens in such cases, and this is done in practice. The important thing is to perfect the system of guarantees in connection with the acuteness of the problems.

[Gornenski] What will happen to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes?

[Shmelev] I subscribe to the opinion that even in their traditional form the kolkhozes and sovkhozes are vitally important in many regions of our country, wherever they are efficient and are achieving indisputable successes. All that is necessary is to liquidate the excessive administrative stratum that is squeezing and restricting them, and sharply reduces their possibilities. This is not an easy process and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev repeatedly stressed that we are witnessing a serious struggle, which although it is bloodless is a serious and uncompromising one. Let us consider the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the Ukraine, and the entire southern part of our country. My impressions of the situation in these parts convince me that after administrative pressure the kolkhozes and sovkhozes will flourish even in their traditional form. The family and group piece-work and forms of leasing will develop simultaneously with the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This phenomenon can already be observed in many places. The normal process of coexistence and competition will develop.

However, I personally do not believe that the traditional forms of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the central regions of the RSFSR can be saved. These kolkhozes and sovkhozes have personally experienced all the tragedies of our development, from World War I to all clumsy agricultural experiments of the sixties, seventies, and even eighties. I think that the traditional economic unit cannot be vital in these regions. I am convinced that the solution is in establishing family farms and small cooperatives of 3-5 families. They can be connected by an elaborate system of cooperative mutual vertical and horizontal relations, that will include the purchasing and marketing of the produce, supplying everything necessary for production and everyday life, repairing the equipment, the credit system, and experiment and research activity.

We are marching toward this. This is a slow process because of some serious reasons. Some of them have a psychological character and encompass the ingrained scepticism toward everything new. However, I believe that even if a small part of our villages adopt the new forms, this will be enough to revive agriculture in these regions and positively influence the consumer market.

[Gornenski] How do you see the USSR'S future in the world economy?

[Shmelev] We are striving now to create an open economy. In order to achieve this the United States needed the entire period after World War II and was assisted by favorable conditions (such as the convertible character of the dollar). However, let us pay attention to the fact that 40 years were needed to increase the relative share of the export in the GNP from 3 to 12 percent. Our conditions of moving in this direction are far less favorable, therefore we need a realistic forecast of the time needed by us to become an organic part of the world economy, which appears to be several decades.

The movement toward this goal presupposes active cooperation with all international financial and trade institutes. They do not exist in a void. The USSR was never an adherent of international economic chaos, but has been led by the understanding that the appropriate institutional structure is necessary. There is no doubt that we shall gradually adapt ourselves to this structure, occasionally beginning with intermediate forms.

The objection of the United States to the USSR joining GATT, as well to the USSR's full-fledged membership in the International Monetary Fund, obviously has political and ideological motives. There can be no considerations of economic character, because the concern that the USSR could have a destructive role in the International Monetary Fund is groundless, even if only because of the rule on which its activity is based. Indeed, these problems now have a purely academic importance. The official Soviet organs declared that steps related to joining the International Monetary Fund are not on the agenda for the time being. As an economist, I disagree with this position; we must think about these important issues and act accordingly.

At present I do not think that the issue of our relations with the EEC is a topical one. For the time being these relations have rather a political importance—within the framework of bilateral relations with the EEC member countries. The EEC regime does not affect us, while this is different in the other East European socialist countries. However, the development of our contacts is important in creating an All-European basis for cooperating and resolving acute problems of importance for the entire continent. I mean active contacts that must replace the concealed economic hostility that dates from the time of the "Cold War." These relations belong more to the political rather than the economic sphere, however, they are developing in the right direction.

Capital Construction Shortcomings Reported

PM0902110789 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 89 Morning Edition p1

[Yu. Rytov article under the rubric "Statistics and Our Commentary": "The Traditional Overrun Construction Schedule"]

[Text] The USSR State Committee for Statistics has reported that ministries and departments have failed to meet the state order for commissioning production capacities in 1988.

For how many years have we been talking about the absurdity of dissipating resources on a multitude of construction projects! Is it really conceivable that matters can be run in this way? Specialists reckon that there are only 12 workers per construction site....

Unfortunately, last year, too, the capital construction situation not only failed to improve—it even deteriorated. As a result of dissipating resources on numerous construction projects and overrunning commissioning schedules, the volume of unfinished building work has increased. At the end of 1988, the volume of incomplete construction work amounted to R13.3 billion of state capital investments, against R8.2 billion at the end of 1987. **In 1988, some R1 billion in wages were paid solely because of the increase in above-norm unfinished construction work.**

Let's consider these figures. R1 billion has already been paid to people. And the return? There is no return yet. So should we really wonder at the country's serious financial situation, the state budget deficit, or the shortage of the most essential goods? I have no wish to offend ordinary construction workers. But a fact remains a fact: We circulate rubles with incredible ease that are not only not supported by real output but have in fact not even been earned....

Again I must emphasize: Ordinary construction workers are not to blame here. After all, the plan for the total volume of contract work has been met, as a whole, by construction and assembly organizations (by 100.2 percent). But! In priority projects, virtually every construction ministry and department has failed to meet the targets set. What is the main reason for the appearance of such "discrepancies" and for this elementary disregard for both common sense and the laws of the economy?

The reason lies in the imperfections of the present economic mechanism in construction. Hitherto, it has been oriented mainly toward gross indicators rather than toward the actual commissioning of projects.

It is hard to even list everything we are lacking as a result of all this. **Of the 858 state order projects (the priority program of production construction) only 583 projects have actually been commissioned. A mere 68 percent of the planned target! A total of 185 projects have been commissioned on the basis of resources from the funds of enterprises and organizations. That is 65 percent of the number they envisaged for last year....**

In the fuel and energy complex, 51 of the 147 projects with capacities covered by the state order have not been commissioned. They include the first turbines at the Kharanor GRES in Chita Oblast and at the Ekibastuz GRES-2 in Pavlodar Oblast, coal-processing capacities at the Rospadskiy Central Enriching Factory in Chita Oblast, and gas-processing capacities at the Noyabrskiy Gas Processing Plant (phase 2) in Tyumen Oblast.

In the metallurgical complex, 31 of the 79 projects envisaged for the year have not been commissioned. These include coke production capacities at the Gubakha Coke and Chemical Plant (Perm Oblast) and iron ore extraction capacities at the Rudnogorsk Mining and Enriching Combine (Irkutsk Oblast).

The machine-building complex: A total of 135 projects were planned. But 34 have not been commissioned. These include capacities to produce power transformers at the Kurgan-Tyube Transformer Plant (the Tajik SSR), industrial robots at the Tbilisi Foundry Equipment Plant, and passenger vehicles at the Zaporozhye "Kommunar" Automobile Plant.

The chemical-timber complex: The plan envisaged 97 projects with capacities covered by the state order. But 34 have not been commissioned.

The construction complex: The figures are 53 and 14 respectively.

And—most distressing of all—light industry is also no exception to the general rule. Of the 69 projects planned for commissioning, only 55 have actually gone into operation.

So how are we to ensure a balanced national economy under these conditions? After all, consumers are already counting on the products from the plants, factories, and combines listed above. But these plants, factories, and combines are still just construction projects....

It must be pointed out that enterprises in the machine-building complex have made their own "contribution" to the dissipation of resources on capital construction. Supplies of technological equipment have failed to dovetail, more often than not, with work schedules or have not been sent in full. The result is that the cost of equipment waiting to be installed throughout the national economy as a whole rose by 2.9 percent last year and reached a total of R14.2 billion.

The USSR Council of Ministers session held 14 January examined the situation in capital construction from a very exacting standpoint. It was noted that there has been no substantial improvement in capital construction in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan. The time taken on building projects is more than double the norm. The social and cultural sphere was a victim of this again last year. **For example, only 64 percent of the planned number of kindergartens and creches were commissioned and 59 percent of clubs and cultural centers.** Shortfalls in meeting targets to increase production capacities, the session stressed, cannot fail to affect the future development of the national economy.

It was pointed out at the session that the USSR Gosstroy, union republics' councils of ministers, and the construction ministries must draw the most serious conclusions from the practical investigation of the situation in capital construction and ensure unconditional fulfillment of the plan for 1989 and the established targets to reduce the above-norm volume of unfinished construction work.

The incomplete must be completed!

Lawyer Describes Joint Venture Documents

PM1002095589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by P. Barenboym, candidate of juridical sciences, under the rubric "Juridical Service": "Articles of Incorporation and Contract"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Petr Barenboym, candidate of juridical sciences and lawyer, continues the talk about joint ventures.

The joint venture's main constituent documents are the contract on its creation and its articles of incorporation. They are adopted, as a rule, simultaneously, and the articles of incorporation, as the most important addition to the contract, also have independent legal significance. The contract and the articles of incorporation must not duplicate each other and only the most basic clauses can be repeated. And in this case it is necessary to follow absolutely identical wordings, remembering that if these wordings contradict each other, the contract clauses take precedence. The published model drafts of these documents should not be mechanically copied on any account when a contract and articles of incorporation are drawn up, since they are only very approximate examples.

There are no clear indications in resolution No 49 as to what questions are decided by the contract on the creation of a joint venture, but at the same time Article 7 of this resolution indicates that the articles of incorporation determine the object and the aims of the venture's activity, its location, the composition of the participants, the size of the articles of incorporation fund, and the size of the participants' shares, the procedure for forming the incorporation fund [ustavnyy fond] (including in foreign currency), the structure, staffing, and competence of the venture's administrative organs, the procedure for taking decisions and the range of questions whose solution requires unanimity, and also the procedure for dismantling a venture.

In accordance with Article 8 of the resolution a joint venture's period of operation is agreed by the participants in the articles of incorporation or contract on setting up the venture.

All the above-mentioned provisions provided for the articles of incorporation can also be present in the contract's text, but in the most general form. It is for the articles of incorporation to provide a detailed account.

The contract should indicate the venture's trade name in Russian and the foreign language, the procedure for handing over the rights to industrial ownership to the joint venture by its participants and by the joint venture to its participants, and also the commercial utilization of these rights and their protection abroad, the possibility of opening branches and offices and creating and using a reserve and other funds, the size of the annual allocations to these funds, and the procedure for depreciation deductions.

Questions of participants' monitoring of the venture's activity, the content of collective contracts, and the procedure for transferring contributions if one of the participants withdraws—these elements must be included in the contract or articles of incorporation. The constituent documents should indicate all the participants' rights and commitments in relation to the venture, including participation in questions of sale and material and technical supply, circumstance involving an insurmountable force—the so-called force majeur—preventing the constituent documents from being fulfilled and, of course, the procedure for resolving disputes (court procedure or arbitration procedure and the specific form of arbitration).

Scientific

'Progress-40' Cargo Spacecraft Launched 10 Feb

LD1002110789 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—A Progress-40 unmanned cargo spacecraft was launched in the Soviet Union on Friday under the programme of work of a Mir piloted orbiting scientific space station.

The satellite will deliver to Mir various cargoes and replenish used materials.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:

maximum distance from the earth's surface—262 kilometers,
minimum distance from the earth's surface—193 kilometres,
period of revolution—88.8 minutes,
inclination of the orbit—51.6 degrees.

According to telemetry data, the on-board systems of Progress-40 are operating normally.

Baklanov Views Shuttle Technology, Expenses

LD0802022889 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Comrade Baklanov visited the scientific production association Energiya near Moscow. In conversations with economic and party leaders and specialists directly involved in developing, building, and conducting tests on the Energiya-Buran space shuttle transport system, the state of the art was examined. The discussions concerned the creation of new space technology in the interests of the national economy, fundamental research, and international cooperation in space research.

The implementation of space projects requires a good deal of expenditure. For this reason the CPSU Central Committee secretary paid particular attention to the need to step up the work of transferring scientific and technical achievements and developments implemented in the Energiya-Buran system to other sectors of the national economy. The issues of increasing the production of consumer goods at the association and the development and manufacture of engineering equipment for the processing sectors of the agro-industrial complex were examined.

Notes Economics of Research, Use

PM1002111189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 89 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Space Geared to the Economy"]

[Text] Space exploration is more and more convincingly becoming an inalienable element of the economy. The rapid development of space technology has been a mighty incentive for improving machine building, electronics, power engineering, and other industrial sectors. Man's life in the modern world is already inconceivable without space communications, navigation, meteorology, the study of earth's natural resources from space, and medical and technological experiments in near-earth orbits. Scientific and technical potential is being sharply accumulated in the sphere of the study and utilization of space. The Energiya Science and Production Association near Moscow, which O.D. Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited on 7 February, plays a leading role in the creation and utilization of space technology.

In conversations with economic and party leaders and specialists who have taken a direct part in the development, manufacture, and testing of the Energiya-Buran space shuttle transport system, the state of affairs with regard to the creation of new space technology in the interests of the economy, fundamental research, and international cooperation in space was examined.

The implementation of space projects necessitates considerable expenditure, and that is why the CPSU Central Committee secretary drew particular attention to the need to speed up work to apply to other economic sectors the scientific and technical achievements and developments that have been brought to fruition, for instance, in the Energiya-Buran system. Even today this will be producing an economic effect that fully compensates for the expenditure on space research.

Questions of increasing the association's production of consumer goods and developing and producing manufacturing equipment for agro-industrial complex processing sectors were also discussed. The CPSU Central Committee secretary was briefed on the development of the social sphere at the enterprise and within the city; he inquired about progress in preparing for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

O.D. Baklanov was accompanied by V.Kh. Doguzhiyev, USSR minister of general machine building; K.V. Frolov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and other party and economic leaders.

Kamchatka Earthquake Dangers Discussed

OW0902044089 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatkiy Television Service in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Speech by L.P. Gavronskiy, director of the Kamchatka Civil Engineering Design Institute, at the Kamchatka Oblast Party-Economy Aktiv meeting, held 20 January at the Kamchatka Obkom Meeting Hall; from the "Utrenniy Videokanal" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We have about 1 million square meters of living space in the city alone—not counting other areas—which are rated 7 on a 9-unit scale. This includes old buildings, private and government-built housing of filled skeleton construction, and wooden, block, and brick buildings. There are also buildings of the large-block type rated between 7 and 8. But these proved to be unreliable in 1971 [date of a major earthquake in Kamchatka]. That means an earthquake similar to that of Leninakan could, speaking candidly, cause the destruction of these buildings. We have no idea when it will take place. It could be at night or in the middle of winter. We don't know. Should it take place in the winter, the situation could be further aggravated by avalanches. Realistically, the death toll could be comparable to that in Armenia. This clearly is the case should the same thing happen here. [passage omitted]

We must not wait for the same thing to happen here, but rather try to prepare for it. This may not be the right time since the country is geared to help Armenia and some of our people are there right now. But the question must be raised so that something is done at the ministerial department level, because nothing is being done. We were merely told to get busy with these papers, and that is all. There are no grants, money, metal, or cement. If this is to be done properly, we should start moving people out into new housing now, while those houses which cannot be reinforced should be demolished. I am not spreading panic but the situation is a difficult one. We have not experienced an earthquake since 1971, whereas one can be expected once every 10 years or so. Earthquakes were recorded in 1904, 1923, then there was a break, followed by one in 1952, 1959, and finally in 1971. [passage omitted]

We have to start work on systematic reinforcement. But this means that immediately, today, some 20,000 people will have to be moved out of their dwellings. Honestly speaking, this is a huge job. [passage omitted]

Military

Belousov on Converting Military Production

LD0902172189 Moscow TASS in English 1646 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—"Drawn up in the USSR at present is a plan for regearing some of the defence industry capacities to the production of goods for the civilian economy", a TASS correspondent was told by Igor Belousov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

"This will allow us, first and foremost, to increase appreciably the output of up-to-date technological equipment for the light, food and processing industries," Igor Belousov said.

As many as 345 defence enterprises have already been made to produce equipment for the light and food industries, he continued. This year they will account for a fifth of all such equipment turned out in the USSR. The output of food industry equipment by defence industry enterprises will be increased 2.3-fold more by 1995.

The program for the output of consumer goods by defence enterprises provides for the manufacture of more than 140 types of complicated household machines, including stereophonic TV sets, kitchen combines and dish-washing machines. Plans are afoot to turn out goods formerly unmanufactured in the USSR: Laser digital audio- and video-recorders, video-cameras, home computers.

The conversion, Igor Belousov noted, presupposes not only the regearing of military production, but the use of discarded combat equipment in national economy. He recalled that only five thousand of the ten thousand tanks the Soviet Union planned to pull out of Europe, would be destroyed, the others would be reequipped for use in civilian branches of economy. These tanks, specialists hold, can be successfully used as heavy-duty fire-fighting machines and as bulldozers for building roads in forbidding areas.

The Soviet Union believes that all states, above all the big military powers, should submit their respective national conversion plans to the United Nations, Igor Belousov stressed. It is also necessary to set up international teams of scientists, who would take upon themselves the task of deeply analyzing the conversion problem as a whole or applicably to individual states and regions.

Kazakh Military Bodies Take Steps Against Drug Use

PM0902151889 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Feb 89 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Following a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Article": " 'The Parcel of Drugs Did Not Arrive, But the Disaster Happened All the Same'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article by Lieutenant Colonel A. Ladin, published in this newspaper on 6 October 1988. Colonel B. Yarmukhamedov, Kazakh SSR military commissar, reported to the editorial office that the cases indicated in the article did indeed take place.

The article was studied and discussed with servicemen and workers and employees of Alma-Ata Oblast military commissariats. Training sessions were carried out with doctors on draft commissions, psychiatrists, and neuropathologists on questions of concrete measures to detect at draft commissions young men who use drugs. A link was set up with internal affairs organs and drug clinics, which submit lists twice a month of people on their records in connection with drug abuse.

Recommendations were drawn up for child and adult general clinics for carrying out medical examinations of young men not from the age of 16 but from the age of 13, with the participation of draft commission doctors and at draft centers.

The case of the inadequate collaboration between the Auezovskiy Rayon Military Commissariat in Alma-Ata and drug clinics and the poorly organized reporting and drafting work was the subject of an investigation. The blame rests entirely with workers at the military commissariat, who confined themselves to a superficial check and a belated request for lists of people on the drug clinic's records.

Auezovskiy Rayon Military Commissariat Military Commissar Lieutenant Colonel V. Klyushnik was subjected to disciplinary proceedings. Major V. Yeruslanov, chief of a department at Auezovskiy Rayon Military Commissariat, was severely reprimanded for shortcomings in work.

A reply was also received from Colonel V. Loktev, chief of Chimkent Oblast Military Commissariat. He tells the editorial office that the article was discussed at a conference of party organization secretaries and at commanding officers' classes in the oblast's military commissariats. In conjunction with local organs, work is being done to detect predraft and draft age young men with a tendency toward drug abuse, and measures are being adopted to prevent drugs being brought into military units. In addition to doctors specializing in drug abuse, staffers of rayon internal affairs departments take part in the work of draft commissions. The military commissariats have lists of young men with a tendency toward abuse or who actually abuse drugs.

The editorial office received a reply from the USSR Ministry of Health, signed by V. Yegorov, deputy chief of the Main Administration of Therapeutic and Prophylactic Aid. The reply says that the Main Administration of Therapeutic and Prophylactic Aid entirely shares the newspaper's views on the need to radically improve the detection of drug users of draft age. A preliminary agreement has been reached with USSR Defense Ministry representatives on the joint formulation of appropriate measures.

As Kazakhstan Komsomol Central Committee Secretary S. Sukharev told the editorial office, the republic Komsomol is continuing the active struggle against drug addiction, toxic substance abuse, and drunkenness. Komsomol committees, in their joint work with the organizations concerned, mainly use the numerous forms and methods of activity that have been tried in previous years and proved effective.

But despite much work being done in conjunction with law enforcmenet organs, the situation in the republic remains strained. The spread of drug addiction is causing serious concern. In 1988 there was an increase of 4.4 percent, compared with 1987, in the number of adolescents on record as using narcotic and psychotropic substances. The proportion of juveniles committing drug-related crimes was 12 percent. We see the further stepping up of the activity of Komsomol committees in this area of work as involving closer contact with all interested organizations.

In this connection, on the initiative of the Kazakhstan Komsomol Central Committee, a joint work plan has been adopted with the Kazakh SSR MVD and Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Education to prevent offenses and spread legal propaganda among juveniles and young people for the period through 1991, in which considerable attention is devoted to combating drug addiction, toxic substance abuse, and drunkenness.